


Flushable wipes clog sewer lines and pumps, which increases the risk of basement backups.

**"FLUSHABLE" WIPES ARE NOT SO FLUSHABLE....**



Did you know that baby wipes may specify they are flushable, but they should not be put in our wastewater system? This also includes adult wipes, cleaning wipes (Clorox, Lysol), medical wipes, etc.

In fact, the only paper product that should be "flushed" is toilet paper. It is the only paper designed to break down as it travels through the wastewater treatment process.



Never flush any products other than toilet paper. Baby wipes, facial tissues, paper towels and sanitary products do not break down as quickly as toilet paper, and will eventually cause blockages.

Manufacturers often advertise these products as being "flushable", but they actually **do NOT** break down quickly and are creating a huge problem for residential and municipal sewer systems.



## BE PROACTIVE!

### ARE YOU INSURED?

Review your homeowner's or renter's insurance policy to see if you are covered in the event of a basement flooding. If you have questions, contact your insurance agent. Consider adding flood damage protection to your insurance policy, or enroll in the lateral insurance program offered by the City of St. Clair Shores.



## SANITARY SEWER LEAD MAINTENANCE & BACK-UP PREVENTION

Property Owner's Preventative Maintenance Guide

## Maintenance Tips for Reducing Basement Backups



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## Top 3 Causes of Basement Flooding

- Sanitary Sewer Back-ups which can be caused from blockages in the lateral (private sewer line) or obstructions in the public sewer system.
- Groundwater seepage through the basement walls via cracks, poorly functioning sanitary sewer drains or footing drains.
- Surface runoff from poorly graded property can cause water to enter your home through exterior openings such as window wells and vents or exterior stairwells.



Basement flooding causes significant distress for homeowners. While it can not always be avoided, there are proactive steps you can take to help prevent it from happening.



## Tips to Help Prevent Basement Flooding

- Have your lateral sewer lines inspected for root intrusion and blockages on a regular (annual) basis.
- Check basement walls for cracks. Repair and waterproof. Consult a Professional for repairs.
- Properly seal any exterior openings, including basement window wells and vents.
- Keep water away from your foundation by properly grading landscaping away from the house, and extending downspouts at least 5 feet from the foundation.

## WHAT TO DO IF YOUR BASEMENT FLOODS:

- Contact DPW for mainline sewer condition at your location.
- Contact your insurance company prior to initiating clean-up.
- Protect yourself by wearing gloves, boots and eye protection. Take care not to spread any sewage contamination to other parts of your home.
- Mop up and dry any water that you can.
- Clean and disinfect the area and all surfaces that have come in contact with flood water with a solution of 8 Tablespoons of liquid chlorine bleach per gallon of water.
- Dispose of any items exposed to sewage. Take photographs of ruined items for insurance claim purposes.
- Remove damaged drywall within 24 hours. This will help eliminate the growth of mold.
- Call a Professional Water Damage Company immediately.

## WHAT NOT TO DO IF YOUR BASEMENT FLOODS:

- Do not allow children or pets to play in the flooded area until it has been thoroughly sanitized.
- Do not bring any electrical appliances near water, especially fans.
- Do not use or touch electrical items that are plugged in.
- Do not use heat to dry building interiors, as this can cause mildew and additional damage.
- Do not enter rooms with sagging ceilings.

**If you have a sewer problem that a private sewer cleaning company cannot resolve, contact the Sewer Division at 586-445-5363**