

# TODD CREEK VILLAGE

METROPOLITAN DISTRICT

*Proud to be your area water provider*

## Please Don't Flush the Wipes!

While Todd Creek Village Metropolitan District is not the provider for sanitation services in our community, a problem with a sewer line or failing septic system can definitely adversely impact the community water supply. Most homes within our service area are on septic systems, while homes in Heritage Todd Creek are served by the City of Thornton Sanitation Department. For homes on septic systems, strict adherence to the Tri-County Health Department's Septic Management Program requires that scheduled preventative maintenance be performed on septic systems to meet or exceed both the Tri-County Health Department and Adams County minimum requirements. For your convenience, more information about the Septic Management Program can be found on our website.

That said, whether your home is served by City of Thornton Sanitation or on a septic system, there are certain things we can all do to help fend off unnecessary sewage blockages. And that starts with not flushing anything other than human waste and toilet paper down the toilet, including any of those single-use wipes which claim to be 'flushable' or 'septic safe'. Unbiased studies have shown they do not break down.

Personal single-use wipes are everywhere these days. In 2015, personal wipes were a \$2.2 billion dollar market in North America, and that has increased significantly each year. There has always been debate about the claims of true flushability of "flushable" wipes.

There was even quite a bit of media coverage about the flushability of wipes last year after the results of a first-ever non-biased study were published by Ryerson University (Ontario) showing a comparison testing of 101 single-use wipes, including 23 supposedly "flushable" wipes. The results... not one of the wipes passed the flushability test. Instead, the wipes all failed to fall apart or disperse safely during testing. The researchers concluded that across the board, cleansing and diaper wipes should never be flushed (even when labeled as "flushable") because ultimately they will clog sewer systems.

It's important to note that while there are a variety of organizations performing testing on single-use wipes—primarily testing paid for by the manufacturers—results are all over the place. More importantly, there is no actual regulatory body responsible for oversight and determination of a standardized flushability criteria or rating, which leaves everything up to interpretation and therefore basically nullifies any value from the testing that is being done. In the meantime, what plumbing professionals are finding in case after case across the nation, is that single-use wipes are creating serious problems because they tend to get stopped at 90 degree elbows in pipe lines, generally located as the sewer line leaves the home and heads towards the main line in the street. And, rather than dissolving after a time, are actually collecting and eventually causing massive clogs which can result in huge plumbing bills, and even damage in the case of line breaks, which in turn, can endanger the community water supply.

For information about your water quality and much more, be sure to check the FAQ section of our website.

**TRANSPARENCY NOTICE: Board Meetings are held every 2nd Thursday at 2:00 pm at the Todd Creek Golf Club, 8455 Heritage Dr, Thornton, CO 80602. The public is always welcome.**



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