PRESS RELEASE

DATE: March 19, 2020

TOPIC: Reminder – Do not flush dirty wipes, throw them in the trash

CONTACT: City of The Dalles Public Works Department   (541) 296-5401

FOR RELEASE: IMMEDIATELY

Wipes Clog Pipes
Citizens in The Dalles are joining the fight against the coronavirus which may include increased cleaning with disposable wipes. Unfortunately, wipes can clog sewer pipes and pumping systems and are the biggest cause of sewer backups in The Dalles. The last thing anyone needs right now is a sewer backup in their home or business. Removing clogs in a building’s sewer pipe is the owner’s responsibility.

Please do not flush dirty wipes, throw them in the trash
Throwing dirty wipes in the trash instead of flushing will:
- Prevent expensive clogs in your home or business and in City sewer lines.
- Prevent water damage in your home or business.
- Prevent health hazards due to sewage overflow.

We are in this fight together. Please keep cleaning to fight the virus. But do not flush dirty wipes, throw them in the trash.

For more information about the impact of flushed wipes on the wastewater collections system go to thedalles.org/wastewater or call Public Works office at (541) 296-5401.

--end--
--see attached picture (high resolution available upon request)--
Toilet paper and human waste are the only two things that should be flushed!

DO NOT FLUSH THESE ITEMS

- Tampons, max pads & their applicators/wrappers
- Cleaning/Flushable Wipes
- Cotton swabs & makeup pads
- Paper towels and cloth towels
- Diapers and Underwear

Removing CLOGS in your sewer pipe is your responsibility.

100 MILES of sewer lines are maintained by only 9 certified operators. The wastewater treatment plant has only 7 certified operators. Help avoid preventable clogs that take them away from other critical tasks. Help us clean up wastewater before it goes into sewer system. Think before you flush.

THE CITY CLEANs ABOUT 2 million gallons per day before it goes into the Columbia River.

WIPES CLOG PIPES Wipes are the biggest cause of sewer backups in The Dalles. Even if the package says "flushable," they should NEVER be flushed. Put dirty wipes in the trash.