



PRESS RELEASE

CITY OF SAN CLEMENTE

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER
ROBERT DUNEK, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

Contact: David Rebensdorf, Utilities Director
Phone (949) 361-6130
Email RebensdorfD@San-Clemente.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
3/19/2020

WIPES, TOWELS, TISSUES CAUSE PROBLEMS WHEN FLUSHED DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

3/19/2020...San Clemente, California... During this time of increased sanitization practices and heightened demands for flushable toilet paper in local stores, the City of San Clemente Utilities Department would like to remind residents and businesses that the City's wastewater collection and treatment system is not equipped to handle wet wipes, even when labeled "flushable."

When flushed, wet wipes, as well as baby wipes, disinfecting wipes for cleaning surfaces, cloth products like cloth diapers and washcloths, and even paper products like paper towels and facial tissue, can cause serious blockages in customers' private sewer laterals, as well as in the City's wastewater system. Other things to keep out of the drain are coffee grounds, floss, hair, medication, and fats, oils or greases. All of these can lead to sewer backups in private homes and businesses along with potential sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the City's system.

Residents and businesses should continue to practice safe sanitation practices, while disposing of any sanitary supplies other than toilet paper in the trash, not in their toilets. The Utilities Department thanks its customers for cooperating and protecting the functionality of its wastewater collection and treatment system, as well as the health of our local beaches and ocean, during this difficult time.

#