



Notice:

Forest Hills Metro District will be conducting the Annual Fire Hydrant Flushing on Wednesday, October 2nd Periodically between the hours of 8:00am to 5:00pm Flushing may take several days to complete

The benefits of flushing

- Confirmation of hydrant and valve operability
- Improved water quality by removing accumulated sediment
- Assuring effective chlorine disinfection levels
- Verification of proper pressure levels and flow for fire protection

Please be aware...

- **There may be periods of low or high water pressure.** If your home's [Pressure Reducing Valve](#) (PRV) has not been tested or replaced recently, you may want to consider shutting off your main water valve to minimize the risk of possible damage due to excessive pressures.
- **The flushing program may cause periods of discolored water in localized areas where flushing is being conducted.** The discoloration is due to mobilization of particles and minerals by the high velocity water before they are discharged through the fire hydrants. The water will remain safe to use and generally clears within a few hours after flushing has been completed. Residents should monitor their water prior to starting laundry, especially when washing white clothes.
- **Notice of completion.** FHMD will send out an email notifying homeowners as soon as flushing is completed.



Forest Hills Metro District

Contact FHMD at admin@fhmd.net with questions

Our sanitary sewer collection system, sewage lift stations, and wastewater treatment plant can experience issues from fats, oils, and grease, and other items, including so called “flushable” wipes, that are harmful to our sewer system. Please take a moment to review the sections below to learn more about what not to flush or pour down the drain. Also, grease and other items can plug your home’s drainpipes resulting in expensive repairs. Please share this information with family members, housekeepers, nannies, babysitters, and visitors to your home.

FATS, OILS, AND GREASE:

Fats, oils, and grease should never be poured down the drain. These substances can clog District pipes just like high cholesterol can clog your veins and arteries. A blockage of our community sewers can result in raw sewage backing up in your home. Clogging of your home’s pipes can also cause a backup. Please note the following to help us prevent backups:

- Pour sizable amounts of fats and grease (such as from frying bacon) into a container, allow them to solidify and then discard in your trashcan. A small, plasticized milk container works well for grease disposal.
- Wipe excess grease and oil from pots and pans using a paper towel and discard into your trash can.
- Scrape waste food from dishes prior to hand washing or loading into a dishwasher.



UNFLUSHABLES:

We all know that there are many things that will flush down a toilet, but the wastewater collection system and treatment process are not designed to handle these items. And while many items are labeled “flushable”, that does not mean it is safe or appropriate to send them down the toilet. The following items **should NEVER be flushed** down the toilet or washed down the drain:

- Paper towels: Unlike toilet paper, paper towels do not disintegrate when wet. Please dispose of paper towels in your trashcan.
- Wipes: Baby wipes, disinfecting wipes, and so-called “flushable” wipes are all detrimental to the wastewater collection system. These items can get hung up on pump impellers or combine with fats, oils and grease to form large balls that block pipes. **All wipes must be discarded in your trash can.**
- Sponges, rags, and towels: These items are not degradable and should be thrown away in your trash can.
- Feminine products: All parts of feminine products should be discarded in your trash can.
- Diapers: All diapers should be discarded in your trash can.
- Cotton swabs/cotton balls: Like paper towels, these items do not disintegrate when wet and should be discarded in your trash can.
- Food waste: While it may be called a garbage disposal, this appliance should not be used to grind food and sent it down the drain. Please place food waste in your trash can.
- Cigarettes: Please extinguish cigarettes and discard in your trash can.
- Plastic and rubber items: Gloves, condoms, and other plastic and rubber items are solid waste and must be discarded in the trash.





- Cat litter: Please bag and dispose of cat litter in your trash can.
- Medical waste: Medication, narcotics, needles, and other medical waste should not be flushed because they contaminate the region's water supply. Please consult the Jefferson County Public Health Department (<http://jeffco.us/public-health/>) for proper disposal of medical waste.
- Oils and solvent: Motor oil, automotive fluids, paint, and solvents of any kind are all **HAZARDOUS WASTES** and should be collected in an appropriate container and dropped off for recycling or disposal at an authorized hazardous waste facility.
- Chemical: Any chemical, including such things as pesticides and herbicides, should not be flushed down the drain as they can kill the biological process at the wastewater treatment plant.
- Building Materials: Drywall compound and other building materials should be bagged and placed with your trash.

FLUSHABLES:

So, what can you flush down your toilet or send down your drain? It is a short list:

1. Human waste (#1 and #2).
2. Toilet paper
3. Water
4. Soaps and detergents from dishwashing, bathing, and laundry.

SEWER BACKUPS:

If your sewer backs up, please notify the District immediately using the emergency number (**970-619-8216**) and let them know you are experiencing a backup and need immediate assistance.

FINAL THOUGHTS:

Remember, a sanitary sewer backup due to plugged pipes in your home can cost \$7,500 or more to repair and clean up!. The District regularly cleans its sewer lines and frequently inspects the wastewater facilities in compliance with government regulations and industry standards but inappropriate items can still cause backups and expensive emergency repairs. This will use funds that could otherwise be spent on community improvement. In addition, the wastewater treatment plant discharges into Mount Vernon Creek which provides water for downstream communities. Many of the items mentioned above can interfere with sewage treatment and cause downstream pollution or large fines by the State of Colorado. Fines are paid from your tax dollars or if necessary special assessments.

We need your help to ensure that everything flows smoothly and properly!

We hope that everyone will join in to protect our wastewater facilities and water resources by complying with these guidelines on what not to flush.