

What Not to Flush



COVID-19: Latex gloves, paper towel and wipes are not flushable

Improper flushing can clog and damage a community's septic and sewer systems

With toilet paper in low supply and cleaning in high gear, your local utility officials are reminding the public that paper towels, disinfectant wipes (even the 'flushable' kind) and latex gloves pose a significant risk to City sanitary collection systems.

“With individuals and families doing their part by staying home, our systems are seeing heavier than normal use,” said Murl Kemmerling, Public Works, Director for the City of Rio Hondo. “We need to be mindful of how we’re treating the City’s utility assets.”

The only things that should be going into the sanitary system are human waste and toilet paper. Improper materials flushed can lead to clogs, blockages, and wastewater equipment damage – all of which can backup a home system and clog sewer systems.

Reminder: Flushing any type of wipe, including disinfecting wipes and wipes marked as "flushable" causes clogging in home and at City sanitary sewage pump stations and may result in sewer backups. Please dispose of wipes in your garbage. Sewage clog or blockage can result in raw sewage overflows into our local lakes. It could even require you to have to leave your home – an especially complicated scenario in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.



Wipes and other solids can mix with fats, oils, and grease in the wastewater to form large clogs. These clogs cause lift stations to fail, pumps to burn up and even roads to be torn up to remove clogs from pipes. These rules also apply to home septic systems.

You can help to prevent clogs in the wastewater system by avoiding flushing any of the items described below.

DID YOU KNOW?

Many items that are labeled “flushable” or “disposable” are actually not safe to flush.

Top Things to Not Flush or Put Down the Drain

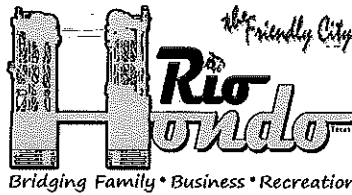
Baby Wipes

Latex Gloves and Disposable Masks

Fats, Oils, and Grease

Food/Trash/Non-Biodegradables

Cleaning Products



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SURFACE WATER TREATMENT TECHNIQUE: [NON-ACUTE]

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) sets minimum water quality standards for public drinking water. [These standards include enforceable treatment technique requirements for drinking water. Inadequately treated water may contain disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches.]

- The City of Rio Hondo, PWS ID TX0310006, failed to meet the minimum treatment technique requirements for the month of **December 2012**. Specifically, our water system had Low Disinfection Contact Time (CT) for more than four consecutive hours.

The City of Rio Hondo has taken the following corrective actions to prevent a recurrence of the violations: The Operator will be Closely monitoring the chlorine to make sure it meets the Contact time required by TCEQ.

If you have questions regarding this matter, you may contact Murl Kemmerling at (956) 990-1488.

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