

### **Background:**

Wipes have become quite popular over the last 20 years. Moistened towelettes are great to clean both counters and dirty hands. Make-up remover pads and facial cleaning wipes are also extremely convenient, particularly when away from home. Baby wipes have become fundamental in the diaper changing process. And the extra strength of personal wipes has become almost as popular for adults as for babies.

#### **The Problem:**

Some of these products are sold as "flushable." But many things are flushable - golf balls, toys, keys, jewelry, - the list goes on and on. But just because you CAN do something, doesn't mean you SHOULD.

Since all of these products were designed to be strong when wet, almost none of them (even those labeled "flushable") break down on their way to the wastewater treatment plant. Because they don't break down, wipes can get tangled or twisted and caught up in your home plumbing or the city sewer system, which can cause a sewage backup in your home or neighborhood.

## **The Solution:**

Like golf balls, toys, keys and jewelry, there is nothing wrong with using any of these products. But don't take a chance on an extremely unpleasant or potentially expensive sewage backup in your home.

Defend Your Drains and throw used wipes in the trash instead of flushing them down the toilet!

#### **Not Convinced?**

- Visit our Facebook page at Facebook/DefendYourDrains for a "showdown" demonstration of toilet paper and wipes versus a mixer.
- Visit the Defend Your Drains regional website for more videos about wipes, including one from Dr. Oz: defendyourdrainsnorthtexas.com/ news.html

# Convinced, but looking for tips on disposal?

- Put used baby wipes into the soiled diaper; enclose the wipes by wrapping them in the diaper with the clean side out; seal closed with the diaper tape/fasteners and dispose of both.
- Wrap used wipes in toilet paper and put them in the trash.
- Put used wipes in small pet waste bags.
- Line your bathroom trash can with a plastic grocery bag and empty when needed.