



City of Orting Public Works

110 Train St. SE
Orting, WA 98360

utility@cityoforting.org

Phone (360) 893-2219
Fax (360) 893-6809

WIPES CLOG PIPES

The City of Orting Public Works staff would like to bring to your attention the ongoing problem of household cleaning wipes and diaper wipes clogging the sewer mains and sewer lift station that provides a service to your home. Many household cleaning products are labeled and marketed as “disposable” but should not be flushed down the toilet. Items include:

- disinfecting wipes
- baby wipes
- mop refills
- paper towels
- towelettes

These products don't dissolve. They clog pipes and cause expensive and time-consuming repairs for homeowners. These products also clog public sewer pipes and pump station equipment leading to sewer backups. Save yourself and your wastewater utility from a pain in the drain—put wipes, rags and towels in the trash, not the toilet! If the clogging persists, the City will be forced to replace sewer mains or pump lift stations which could result in higher utility rates.

According to a 2007 newspaper report, consumers in North America bought around 83,000 tons of disposable wipe in one year. That's about 9000 18-wheel semi-trailers full; about 30% of these were meant for home cleaning.