

Flushable wipes can clog pipes because they do not break down like toilet paper, often leading to blockages in home plumbing and sewer systems.

WHY FLUSHABLE WIPES CAUSE CLOGS

Despite being labeled, “Flushable” most wipes are made of synthetic fibers such as polyester, polypropylene, or reinforced cellulose. These wipes are bound with chemical adhesives to maintain strength when wet. Unlike toilet paper, which dissolves quickly in water, these wipes remain intact, allowing them to accumulate in pipes. Over time these create clogs and can reduce water flow where eventually can cause slow drains, back-ups, or even complete blockages.

HOW TO ADDRESS RELATED CLOGS

1. **PLUNGER**– Plunging helps loosen clogs
2. **SNAKE**- Use of a toilet auger to grab and help remove blockages
3. **ENZYME BASED CLEANERS**- These cleaners use bacteria and enzymes to break down organic matter in a clog
4. **PROFESSIONAL HELP**- For deep or persistent clogs, a licensed, insured plumber may be necessary to safely remove the obstruction

PREVENTION and ALTERNATIVES

- The most effective way to prevent plumbing issues is to stop flushing wipes altogether
- Use regular toilet paper which dissolves quickly in water
- Biodegradable wipes specifically labeled as safe for septic systems.
- Disposing of wipes in the trash over flushing

By avoiding flushable wipes, homeowners can reduce the risk of costly plumbing repairs and prevent environmental impacts associated with sewer blockages.