



THE COUNTY OF KAUA'I

DEREK S. K. KAWAKAMI, MAYOR

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News Release

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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
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County encourages public to not flush wipes, paper towels

County officials would like to inform residents and businesses that wipes (including those labeled as “flushable”) and paper towels should not be flushed down the toilet.

These products contribute to blockages in the sewer system and lead to wastewater spills. These products do not breakdown like toilet paper. They tend to get caught on rough surfaces in the sewer system and cause blockages in pipes and clog pumps. This leads to numerous problems for a sewer system or individual wastewater system (IWS) (i.e. cesspool or septic system). This can result in a wastewater spill from a manhole which can affect homes, businesses, rivers and the ocean. It can also cause a home's or business' drains and/or toilets to backup and spill.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, the use of these wipes and paper towels have increased drastically. Please dispose of these wipes and paper towels in your refuse, which ends up in the landfill. All trash should be bagged prior to disposal because loose trash tends to become wind-blown litter in the streets or the landfill. It is imperative that we keep the public safe from being exposed to wastewater and keeping wipes and paper towels out of the sewer system will be a tremendous help.

Anyone with questions may contact Jason Kagimoto with the Department of Public Works at 808-241-4083 or via email at jkagimoto@kauai.gov.

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