TO FLUSH OR NOT TO FLUSH

How many of us use the toilet to flush trash? You are cleaning your bathroom with a paper towel or some other type of cleaning wipe. When the job is done, you flush them down the toilet and they magically disappear. Or do they? There is a good chance these items are starting to accumulate in your lateral. The lateral is a four inch pipe that carries wastewater from your home to the sewer main located in the street. Or worst yet, these materials make it to the sewer main and plug the main. End result, you will have wastewater backing up into your basement or your neighbor’s basement. The reason these products can cause a backup is because they do not break down like toilet paper does. Paper towels and wet wipes are made up of durable products that do not break down when flushed. See list below for other items you should not flush down the toilet.

DO NOT FLUSH:
- Paper towels, cleaning wipes, napkins, facial tissue.
- Baby wipes, disposable diapers.
- Cotton balls, cotton swabs, bandages, dental floss.
- Facial cleaning pads, condoms, tampons and pads.
- Cat litter, cigarette butts.
- Cooking oils and grease.
- Paints, sealants and thinners.
- Syringes and needles - Use sharps disposal container.
- Prescription drugs and over the counter medications – Although these items will not plug the sewers, the treatment plant is not designed to remove all of these chemicals from the wastewater. Take these items to the Med-Drop box. Box is located in the lobby of the Police Department, 300 Main Street. The lobby is open 24/7. After hours, enter from Main Street.