



OPERATION Ripple Effect™

SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER

PROJECT BULLETIN

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But, when we get heavy rains or sudden snow melts, stormwater overwhelms the system and causes overflows into the Mohawk River. That stormwater runoff enters the sanitary sewer system from multiple sources: deteriorated and damaged public sanitary sewers; and private property connections, such as roof leaders and sump pumps.

Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Sewer District that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

MAKING PROGRESS:

THINK TWICE BEFORE DUMPING DOWN THE DRAIN.

Thanks to Operation Ripple Effect™, we know that sump pumps and roof leaders shouldn't discharge stormwater into the sanitary sewer. We also know that fats, oils and grease can cause costly clogs and backups. But, did you know that there is a whole list of other materials that can also cause BIG problems?



While wastewater treatment methods work effectively for sewage, these processes are not designed for other materials that can clog pipes and equipment, resulting in environmental impacts, such as backups into homes and overflows into the Mohawk River.

Another consequence of improper disposals is the cost it takes to clear these system blockages and fix the equipment that has been broken. Each incident of a blockage or broken equipment can cost taxpayers thousands of dollars in materials and man-hours to fix.

So what, exactly, shouldn't go down the drain?

"Flushable" wipes are convenient, durable, and especially helpful

for potty-training toddlers. **But, please don't flush them!**

While many brands claim that their wipes are "septic-safe" or "flushable," the fact is that these wipes do not break down completely as they move through the sanitary sewer system. Instead, the wipes become stringy and wrap around pumps and other equipment, resulting in expensive repairs. If you decide to use wipes, please dispose of them in the garbage.



Other non-biodegradable items that should never be disposed of in the sewer system include:

- Hazardous waste: paint, gasoline, cleansers and other chemically-laden materials
- Hygiene products
- Rubber or latex
- Prescription drugs
- Dental floss



LEARN FROM LONDON. AVOID THE FATBERG.

fatberg. noun \ˈfat-bərg\:

A fatberg is a large mass of fats, oils and grease that has congealed and been fortified by materials such as "flushable" wipes.

In April, a 131-foot long, 11-ton fatberg was removed from a sewer in London. It cost more than \$600,000 and two months to repair the damage.

This problem is not unique to London. In fact, it happens in communities all around the world - including ours!



Contact cmanion@paigegroup.com to schedule a briefing. For more news and reports, visit www.sewerrehabocsd.org.

An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District

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