

The Problem:

- Wet wipes (baby wipes) are clogging the Town's sewer system
- The wipes connect together and create large blobs
- The shredders shred blobs but the wipes blob together again
- The pumps become clogged

Pictures: Courtesy of Tim Drumm





Estimated Annual Cost of Cleaning Rags

Number of Operators	3
Number of Hours per Week Cleaning Rags/Pumps	24
Total Annual Cost per Operator Including Indirect Costs	\$ 85,000
Total Annual Cost of Cleaning Rags	\$ 153,000

Estimated Annual Cost of Replacement Pumps

Number of Pump Stations	4
Estimated Unit Cost to Upgrade Pump Station	\$ 700,000
Total Estimated Replacement Cost	\$ 2,800,000
Duration of Loan (years)	20
Interest Rate	2%
Total Annual Cost of Cleaning Rags	\$ (142,000)

Ways to address the problem:

- Educational campaign
- Mandated bylaws
- Class-action lawsuits
- **Most effective solution: Stop flushing wipes!**

Educational Campaign

- Distribution of fliers and pamphlets around Town & in public restrooms
- Municipalities have held public forums and informational discussions about wipes
- Others have held special meetings with institutions that use wipes prevalently (hospital, senior center, etc.)

Bylaws and Restrictions

- The Health Dept. can institute mandates for the proper disposal of wipes
- It is unenforceable

Class Actions

- Charmin wet wipes are target of lawsuit
- Pettit v. Proctor & Gamble Co.
- California consumers take P&G to court over falsely claiming wipes are flushable



Best way to fix this:

Stop flushing wipes