

WATER PROTECTION DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

The Cooperative Public Health Service Health District of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments reminds people to consider what is going into their household drains. People served by public sewer systems or private septic systems should be aware of what happens with items that are not biological and therefore not intended for the wastewater system.

While the Coronavirus **requires** an increase in the need to sanitize, even within our own homes, we need to limit the amount of sanitizers that go into our sanitary sewer systems. These sanitizers kills viruses and bacteria, both harmful and the useful bacteria that breaks down your family's waste. The district's recommendations:

DON'T FLUSH WIPES, paper towels, cotton swabs, sanitary products, toilet cleaning pop-off wands...

- **If your home has its own septic system:** Even flushable wipes can clog your plumbing and create problems for your septic system. Wipes don't break down quickly and entirely like toilet paper. Flushing wipes and items other than toilet paper can plug the building sewer line and build up at the inlet of the septic tank causing sewage to back up into your house. Wipes in your septic tank will reduce its ability to remove solids from the water, contributing to system failure. Flushing wipes can also clog up much-needed pumps within your septic system.
- **If your home is on public sewer, leading to a wastewater treatment plant:** Flushing wipes and items other than toilet paper can plug the building sewer line, causing sewage to back up into your house. They can also clog up the pumps in your local wastewater treatment plant.



USE BLEACH SPARINGLY

- Combatting the Coronavirus **requires** an increase in the need to sanitize, even within our own homes. However, **bleach, and other disinfectants** kill the beneficial bacteria and may lead to premature system failure. Choose **non-bleach** cleaning alternatives whenever possible or use sparingly and well diluted. Hot water and soap are effective against Coronavirus.

WHERE TO LEARN MORE

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/protect-home.html>

