

WAR ON WET WIPES!

Did you know wet wipes are made from tiny pieces of plastic? Every day wipes are flushed down the toilet and can cause big problems by blocking our sewers! Even some wipes that say they are 'flushable' don't break up!

Take some time out to quietly read about wet wipes and see if you can answer the questions on the next page.

At Severn Trent we are called out to fix over 30,000 blockages every year. These are often caused by the wrong things being put down the toilet or the sink!



One of the main problems is wipes! We use so many different types of wipes nowadays. From face wipes to floor wipes, baby wipes to hand wipes there are so many different varieties! Most people don't think before dropping them into the toilet – especially when they're branded as 'flushable'. These wipes are causing HUGE problems in the sewers!

Wipes of all types are made up of micro-plastics, which means they don't break down like toilet paper and when flushed can get caught in the pipes. The wipes start to stick together and can block the pipe so badly that the sewage has nowhere to go! This can cause a flood either inside or outside of the house! This is a very horrible situation to be in and we don't want that to happen to any of us.



Wet wipes are costing Severn Trent nearly £5 million per year! Every weekend, in every town around three and a half tonnes of wipes and other items which shouldn't be flushed are dragged out of our sewers. That's about the same weight as a Range Rover car! Across the region it's nearly 1,500 tonnes every month and over 16,000 tonnes per year!

The drains are only a few inches wide and are only meant to take water, toilet roll and human waste. Remember toilet roll is meant to break down when it gets wet so it washes easily through the system. That's not the case with things like wipes. If you do use them, please put them in the bin!



Certain brands of toilet wipes have created a new type of wipe with a 'fine to flush' sticker on it. This means wipes with this sticker can go down the toilet as the wipes have been designed to break down to prevent blockages!



Help protect your sewer pipes and prevent blockages by binning your wipes!

Protect your pipes, bin your wipes!



ANSWER SHEET

How many blockages do Severn Trent deal with a year?

30,000

What causes the blockages?

Wipes - as they are made up of micro plastics

Can you list three different types of wipes?

1. **Baby**

2. **Floor**

3. **Hand/face**

How many tonnes of wipes do Severn Trent remove out of the sewers every year? **Over 16,000 tonnes**

What logo do you need to look for when buying toilet wipes?

Fine to flush

In the circle below, write or draw the only things we want down the pipes:

Toilet paper, pee
and poo!