

FLUSHABLES ARE NOT REALLY FLUSHABLE

In the last several years with the emergence of so-called “flushable” wipes, the wastewater industry is seeing an increase in blockages often occurring from the accumulation of disposable wipes in wastewater treatment systems. The pipes, pumps, and other equipment processing flushable waste in wastewater treatment systems are often not capable of handling such waste.



Disposable wipes have a variety of different uses – from sanitary cleansing to make-up removal. The appeal of disposable wipes is they are easy to dispose of and are often labeled as “flushable.” There is an active debate and now many lawsuits surrounding whether or not wipes branded as “flushable” are able to biodegrade quickly enough to run efficiently through sewerage systems. Several studies over the past several years have provided evidence to suggest that wipes branded as “flushable” are clogging wastewater systems.

The Department of Environmental Services urges residents and businesses to toss used wipes in the trash where they can be properly disposed of in refuse collection and turned into energy at H-POWER.



For more information, please visit <https://www.honolulu.gov/envwwm/wwm-contact.html>