

# **“FLUSHABLE” WIPES WREAK HAVOC ON BEREA’S SEWER SYSTEM**

Flushable wipes are causing many problems throughout Berea Municipal Utilities' sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plant. Although marketed as an alternative to toilet paper, these "flushable" wipes are not biodegradable and do not break down or dissolve in water. When these non-biodegradable materials combine with other materials in the sewer system, such as fats, oils, and grease, the problem compounds significantly by creating large masses of waste that clog sewer lines and damage pumps and treatment infrastructure, requiring costly repairs.

Berea Municipal Utilities asks customers to be mindful of the issues these wipes cause. Customers should only flush toilet paper and human waste and toss other wipes and debris in the trash. Practicing this effort to minimize the amount of non-biodegradable material in the sewer system will help keep sewer rates as low as possible by preventing costly operational and maintenance emergencies and repairs. It will also positively impact the environment by reducing the number of sanitary sewer overflows



**“Flushable” wipes clogging and damaging a sewer pump at one of Berea’s pump stations, resulting in repair costs >\$50,000.**



**Problems resulting from “flushable” wipes at Berea’s wastewater plant, including covered valve stems, blocked access ladders, and clogged discharge pipes.**