

Tahoe City Public Utility District



Squaw Valley PSD

## **For Immediate Release**

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# **WIPES (and a lot of other things) CLOG PIPES**

**North Tahoe/Truckee, CA – August 18, 2015–**

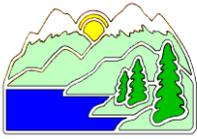
There are few things worse than a sewer back up in your home or in the environment. A sewer back up is a mess to clean up and a serious health hazard. It can also cause extremely expensive property damage and catastrophic environmental harm. Each year, several sewer backups occur in the North Tahoe/Truckee region and more often than not, they are preventable.

Toilets, sinks and drains are not trash cans and using them that way is often the cause of a sewer backup. Essentially, the ONLY items that should go into the sewer system are toilet paper and human waste. Everything else are sewer-stoppers. One of the most common sewer-stopper dropped into the system are “flushable” wipes. Although many products are marketed as “flushable” they are really anything but. toilet paper breaks down quickly whereas wipes, tissues, paper towels, napkins, sanitary products, hair, finger nail clippings, cotton balls or swabs, kitty litter etc. do not and should be put in the trash can and not the toilet, bathroom sink or kitchen sink.

The issues don't end with toilet either. Fats, oils, and grease harden and become drain stoppers. It is much better to dry wipe pans and plates with a paper towel and discard of grease and oil in the trash can before rinsing or washing dishes. Food, even when ground in a garbage disposal, is hard on the sewer system.

Although it may sound obvious, things such as paints, oil, pesticides, or other chemicals should never be put down a sink or toilet either. Some hazardous materials can corrode sewer pipes and the sewer system. Hazardous materials can be disposed of at one of the Eastern Regional Landfill household hazardous waste disposal events. Go to [www.placer.ca.gov/recycle](http://www.placer.ca.gov/recycle) for more information.

Prescription drugs should also never be flushed and should be disposed of properly to protect the environment and keep them out of the hands of others. There are two (2) permanent prescription drug drop off bins in the community; Placer County Sheriff's Burton Creek Substation and the Truckee Police Department.



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The region's sewer service providers have teamed up to ask everyone to take care of their sewer system to help prevent sewer backups, clogs, and issues. Simply keeping things out of toilets and sinks that don't belong will go a long way in saving you and our environment a lot of problems and expense.

Brought to you by your local sewer collection agencies:

North Tahoe Public Utility District, providing sewer collection services from the California stateline in Crystal Bay to Dollar Hill, [www.ntpud.org](http://www.ntpud.org)

Tahoe City Public Utility District, providing sewer collection services from Dollar Hill to Emerald Bay and from Tahoe City to Squaw Valley Road, [www.tahoecitypubd.org](http://www.tahoecitypubd.org)

Truckee Sanitary District, providing sewer collection services in Truckee and the Donner Lake area, [www.truckeesan.org](http://www.truckeesan.org)

Tahoe Truckee Sanitation Agency, proving waste water treatment to the region, [www.ttsa.us](http://www.ttsa.us)

Squaw Valley Public Service District, providing sewer collection services to Olympic Valley, [www.svpsd.org](http://www.svpsd.org)

*For additional information, contact your local sewer utility, call Kurt Althof at Tahoe City Public Utility District 530.580.6057 or send an email to [kalthof@tcpud.org](mailto:kalthof@tcpud.org).*

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