



While Yuima, the State Water Board and other public agencies encourage Californians to follow the [Center for Disease Control recommendations](#) to clean surfaces with disinfecting wipes to reduce the spread of COVID-19, **it is important to discard those items in the trash, not the toilet.**

Flushing wipes, paper towels and similar products down toilets will clog septic systems and cause backups in your residential piping, creating an additional public health risk in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic. Even wipes labeled “flushable” will clog pipes and interfere with sewage collection and treatment throughout the state.

Public Health Officials are asking state residents to not discard wipes in the toilet, but instead to throw them in the trash to avoid sewer backups and overflow. [Wipes, paper towels and other non-toilet paper products do not break down](#) like toilet paper, and therefore **clog systems very quickly.**

*Wipes are among the leading causes of sewer system backups, impacting sewer system and treatment plant pumps and treatment systems. Many spills go to our streams, rivers, and oceans where they have broad ranging impacts on public-health and the environment. Preventing sewer spills is important, especially during this COVID-19 emergency, for the protection of public health and the environment. **Please do not flush disinfectant wipes or paper towels down the toilet.***