

The cautionary note reported in the March 21st edition of the Portsmouth Herald is also relevant to New Castle sewer customers. Inappropriate materials jeopardize the integrity of our system and impose an additional burden on our very small DPW staff. Please, please, do not flush anything down a toilet other than human waste and toilet paper. Your cooperation is greatly and gratefully appreciated.

N. Houle

Chairman, New Castle Water & Sewer Commission

PORTSMOUTH – The Department of Public Works’ Water & Sewer Department warns residents to refrain from flushing anything other than toilet tissue in their toilets.

This is true at all times, but especially now as many are wiping surfaces with disinfectant. Sanitizing wipes, paper towels and baby wipes should never be flushed down the toilet as they do not dissolve the way toilet tissue does and instead cause blockages and backups in homes and the city’s sewer system.

Even wipes labeled as “flushable” are not and should be thrown away in a trash bag. These items get snagged in the pipes, cause a blockage and then an overflow. Or they can get caught in a pump and stop the pump. They can block the pipes leading out of the house to street connections and private septic systems, as well as damaging equipment in the treatment plants.

Water and sewer officials across the country warn such blockages contribute to what in the industry are known as “fatbergs” – masses of undissolved fats, grease and paper that take extra manpower and sometimes sewer service interruptions to clean out.

In addition to remembering, “wipes clog pipes,” residents should think, “when in doubt, throw it out” in the trash, not the toilet.