



CITY OF SEDALIA  
Municipal Building  
200 South Osage Avenue  
Sedalia, Missouri 65301

# PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

Contact: Brenda Ardrey  
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
3:45 P.M. CDST, MARCH 20, 2020

## **CITY OF SEDALIA'S SEWER PUMPING SYSTEM EXPERIENCING OVERLOAD: PLEASE DON'T FLUSH THOSE DISINFECTING WIPES**

(SEDALIA, MISSOURI) As our community works to sanitize our homes and businesses due to the Coronavirus and Covid-19, the Public Works Department wants to remind residents that disinfecting wipes and paper towels need to be disposed of along with household garbage and are not to be flushed down the toilet.

Nylon wipes and paper towels are stronger than toilet paper and do not break down in water in the same manner. Flushing them can quickly cause clogs, wreaking havoc on sewer systems and treatment plant pumps and resulting in spills that end up in lakes, rivers and streams, according to the Water Pollution Control Division of the Public Works Department.



On Thursday evening, March 19, 2020, the City's Thompson Meadows Lift Station was inundated with disinfecting wipes clogging the pumps at the lift station. Flushing wipes, paper towels and similar products down toilets will clog sewers and cause backups and overflows at wastewater treatment facilities, 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.

We appreciate your assistance as we work to provide sewer service for our citizens. If you have any questions or concerns about sewer service or appropriate disposal of materials, please call Public Works at (660) 827-3000, ext. 1166.

**When: March 20, 2020**

**Where: Citywide**

**Why: Sewer Lift Station and Wastewater Treatment Plant Pumps Malfunctioning**