

The “War on Wipes” and Other Non-Dispersible Products



The Problem...

Dude Wipes take home 2013 Visionary Awards

Sean Riley, “Chief Executive Dude” for Dude Wipes:

“We found that once people started using wipes, they became part of their routine... This product is really creating new customers for wipes. We are introducing so many people into the wipes market, probably 80% of the guys using this product have not used wipes before.”

Bench Tests



Toilet paper after 40 seconds versus a wipe after 16 hours

PARSA Potty Tests



Example Test Results



Dyed Wipe Field Tests in Vancouver, WA

45 Minutes in Sewer



Blue = Baby Wipes

Red = “Flushable” Wipes



The Costs...

Vancouver, WA

- \$78,000 annually in maintenance to deploy crews to de-rag pumps
- \$30,000 annually in additional electricity costs to run pumps that are clogged
- \$900,000 for new pumps and equipment from 2009-2013
- 429 tons of rags/debris in 2012

www.nacwa.org/flushables

The screenshot shows the NACWA website with a dark blue header. The NACWA logo is on the left, and social media icons and a search bar are on the right. Below the header, there's a navigation bar with five categories: ABOUT NACWA, WATER QUALITY, OPERATIONS & WET-WEATHER ISSUES, UTILITY MANAGEMENT, and 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES & OPPORTUNITIES. The main content area is titled 'Issues' and features a sidebar on the left with links to Home, My NACWA, About NACWA, Issues, Water Quality, Operations & Wet Weather Issues, Utility Management, 21st Century Challenges & Opportunities, Member Pipeline, Conferences & Professional Development, Awards, Marketplace, Publications, News & Media, and Clean Water Careers. The main content area is titled 'Flushable Wipes and Other Non-Dispersible Products' and contains a paragraph about the collection of materials on 'flushable' wipes. It also includes a section for 'Upcoming Events' listing the Summer Conference & 43rd Annual Meeting, and a section for 'Join a Committee' with a link to the Sign-up Form. At the bottom, there's a section titled 'What You Can Do To Help' with a paragraph about the problem and a link to the Non-Dispersibles Incident Report. The report is available in two versions: a PDF version to fill in by hand and a Word version to fill in on your computer.

NACWA

Search...

Sign In

Issues

Home
My NACWA
About NACWA
Issues
Water Quality
Operations & Wet Weather Issues
Utility Management
21st Century Challenges & Opportunities
Member Pipeline
Conferences & Professional Development
Awards
Marketplace
Publications
News & Media
Clean Water Careers

Flushable Wipes and Other Non-Dispersible Products

This collection of materials on "flushable" wipes and other products that may not disperse in the sewer system is being used by NACWA, the American Public Works Association (APWA), and the Water Environment Federation (WEF) in conversations with retailers and manufacturers of these products. NACWA members and other wastewater utilities may also find these useful in their efforts to reduce the problems caused by these products.

Do you have materials to add to this page? If so, please send them to Cynthia Finley at cfinley@nacwa.org.

What You Can Do To Help

Does your utility have problems with wipes and other non-dispersible products, and would you like to help with our national advocacy efforts? If so, please take photos of the problem and complete a **Non-Dispersibles Incident Report**. Two versions of the report are available:

- A [PDF version](#) to fill in by hand
- A [Word version](#) to fill in on your computer

Upcoming Events:

- [Summer Conference & 43rd Annual Meeting](#)
Managing & Financing the Resilient Clean Water Utility
July 14 – 17, 2013, [Hilton Cincinnati Netherland Plaza](#), Cincinnati, OH

Join a Committee:

- [Sign-up Form](#)