**What’s a Fatberg?**

The term “fatberg” = fat + iceberg

Fatbergs can grow to be over 1,000 feet long and 50% increase in sewer blockages since the start of the pandemic

Forensic analysis reports taken by wastewater groups from 4 recent fatbergs showed the make-up of clogs in their areas.

$1 Billion estimated national cost per year to remove fatbergs

$300-$450 The average cost to repair damage to your home plumbing system caused by clogs.

$4,000-$15,000 The average cost for a whole house repipe.

1st fatberg discovered was on 8/6/2013 in Kingston upon Thames, London.

~2 notable fatbergs discovered every year since

weigh more than 300 tons*

~20 noteworthy fatbergs discovered every year since


**Old Systems, New Problems**

800,000 Miles of sewer pipes across America

60% of all the sewer pipe that’s over 60 years old

America has enough sewer pipe to stretch to the moon 3.5 times!


**How BIG are we talking?**

850 billion gallons of raw sewage is dumped into waterways across America every year. (About the same amount of water the Mississippi River annually carries into the Gulf of Mexico!)

**800,000** Miles of sewer pipes across America

**60%** of all the sewer pipe that’s over 60 years old

**America has enough sewer pipe to stretch to the moon 3.5 times!**


**Did you know?**

- The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that between 23,000 and 75,000 overflow incidents of waste directly into rivers take place each year. That’s equivalent to about 6,000 to 20,000 cars.

- The 880,000 miles of sewer pipes across America can hold the equivalent of 508,000 Olympic-size swimming pools.

- Big Fatbergs in Figures

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Percentage of Clog from Non-Flushable Items</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jacksonville, Florida</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York City, New York</td>
<td>99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Portland, Maine</td>
<td>98%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>London, England</td>
<td>92%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>This giant fatberg was discovered in Birmingham, England in May 2021.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**How much of each clog was from non-flushable items?**

- About 3 football fields!
- Heavier than 7 humpback whales!


**IT’S LIKE FLUSHING MONEY DOWN THE TOILET!**

- Studies show that 80% of the cost of over 400,000 clogged sewer pipes is caused by tree roots, trash & debris.

- 50% of sewer line blockages since the start of the pandemic are caused by tree roots, trash & debris.

- A study by the National Public Transit Association found that 19% of transit authorities have had to close down bus stops due to sewer line blockages.

- The cost of sewer line blockages can range from $300 to $450 per home, and $4,000 to $15,000 for a whole house repipe.


**The Toilet isn’t a Trashcan**

**下列不适用于下水道处理植物的物品。**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Paper towels</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baby wipes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feminine products, tampons</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental floss</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Make-up applicator pads</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facial tissue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cigarettes &amp; cigarette butts</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


**Non-Flushable Items**

- FOG: Cooking Fats, Grease

- Paper Towels

- Feminine hygiene products

- Disinfecting and cleaning wipes

- Makeup applicator pads & removal wipes

- Cigarettes & cigarette butts

- Feminine products, tampons

- Colonic enemas

- Dental floss

- Facial tissue

- Make-up applicator pads & removal wipes


**5 ways to take action now.**

1. **Disinfect all FOG in the trash bin.**
2. **Consider a grease trap.**
3. **When in doubt, throw it out.**
4. **Help us spread the word!**
5. **Do not flush!**


**To learn more about how to #FlushSmart, find the Responsible Flushing Alliance on Facebook and Twitter.**

www.flushsmart.org