
February 2018

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50

12900 Crosby Lynchburg Rd. Barrett Station, Texas 77532
www.hcmud50.com Telephone: 281-328-2041 Fax: 281-328-6265

Harris County Municipal Utility District No. 50 Board of Directors:

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Vice President – Simone Wheatfall
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Assistant Secretary – Daryl Johnson
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To Flush or Not to Flush

When the wrong thing is flushed down a toilet, results can include costly backups on your own property or problems in our sanitary sewer system and lift stations.

For example, when a someone flushes a wipe, it travels through their plumbing and lateral sewage line to the main sewer line then heads downstream, traveling through a network of pipes and pump stations on their way to the wastewater treatment facility. Once at the pump station, wipes clog the pump station equipment, resulting in great increased maintenance and potential for pump failure. Products labeled "flushable" do not disperse or break apart after being flushed. While it might actually flush, it does not break down once it is in our sanitary sewer system. As these non-dispersibles accumulate in the sewer pipe, they hinder the flow and eventually cause blockages that can lead to sanitary sewer backups or overflows.

The best solution is simple...Stick to the three P's: *pee, poo, and toilet paper.*

Cease the Grease: What About Fats, Oils, and Greases?

Fats, oils, and grease are other materials that can cause major



Upcoming Events

February 22

Board Meeting at 6:00 pm at District's Office

March 6

Board Meeting at 6:00 pm at District's Office

March 22

Board Meeting at 6:00 pm at District's Office

April 3

Board Meeting at 6:00 pm at District's Office

Sign up online at www.hcmud50.com to receive breaking alerts and highlights via email/text.

It's A Toilet, Not a Trashcan

WHAT NOT TO FLUSH:

- PRE-MOISTENED WIPES OR FACIAL TISSUES
 - BABY WIPES OR DIAPERS
 - DENTAL FLOSS
 - RUBBER ITEMS SUCH AS LATEX
 - SANITARY NAPKINS
 - SYRINGES
 - COTTON SWABS
 - CIGARETTE BUTTS
 - MEDICATIONS AND SUPPLEMENTS
 - HAIR, DUST, DIRT, OR LINT
 - AQUARIUM GRAVEL OR KITTY LITTER
 - PLASTIC ITEMS
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problems to the sanitary sewer system when poured down the drain. Proper disposal of fats, oils, and grease can prevent environmental, household, and system damage.

When you have finished cooking, collect liquid grease and oils in a sealable container that can be disposed in the trash. Do not pour oil and grease down the drain. Do not rinse off oil and grease with hot water. Scrape off excess food from pots, pans, and plates before rinsing them in the sink with cold water.

These problems cost which are ultimately passed on to the customer. If the District has to come out and identifies the problem is on the customer's side (lateral sewage) there will be \$50.00 service fee. The District is not responsible for jetting customer's lines that are clogged.

More Important News

How to Winterize Your Home Plumbing

Winter is not over yet, and frozen pipes are major concern for most homeowners as well as HCMUD 50, the following winterizing tips may help avoid future water damage and costly repairs:

How to prevent frozen pipes

- Open kitchen and bathroom cabinet doors to allow warmer air to circulate around the plumbing. Be sure to move any harmful cleaners and household chemicals up out of the reach of children.
- When the weather is very cold outside, let the cold water drip from the faucet served by exposed pipes. Running water through the pipe – even at a trickle – helps prevent pipes from freezing.
- Keep the thermostat set to the same temperature both during the day and at night. By temporarily suspending the use of lower nighttime temperatures, you may incur a higher heating bill, but you can prevent a much more costly repair job if pipes freeze and burst.

How to thaw frozen pipes

- If you turn on a faucet and only a trickle comes out, suspect a frozen pipe. Likely places for frozen pipes include against exterior walls or where your water service enters your home through the foundation.
- Keep the faucet open. As you treat the frozen pipe and the frozen area begins to melt, water will begin to flow through the frozen area. Running water through the pipe will help melt ice in the pipe.
- Apply heat to the section of pipe using an electric heating pad wrapped around the pipe, an electric hair dryer, a portable space heater (kept away from flammable materials), or by wrapping pipes with towels soaked in hot water. Do not use a blowtorch, kerosene or propane heater, charcoal stove, or other open flame device.
- Apply heat until full water pressure is restored. If you are unable to locate the frozen area, if the frozen area is not accessible, or if you cannot thaw the pipe, call a licensed plumber.
- Check all other faucets in your home to find out if you have additional frozen pipes. If one pipe freezes, others may freeze, too.