

## **Text from Community Email sent 4/4/2020**

Greetings Division 12 STEP Members:

We hope you and yours are healthy and abiding by the guidance and procedures affecting us all. One item for your consideration in this time of altered hygiene practices relates to the disposal of paper towels and wipes. These **should not** be flushed down the toilet. These will not directly affect the STEP system but they will collect in your septic tank and they **WILL** shorten the maintenance life of your on-property system. They also could lead to plumbing blockages in the short term and result in expensive and inconvenient service calls and repairs. “Flushable” does not mean that wipes should be flushed or that it is a good practice. They also do not biodegrade and break up like toilet paper and will result in the need for more frequent septic tank pumping. So if you use these products, it is wise to dispose of them like you do other solid waste. There are several recent articles and pictures on the internet regarding this problem—here is one example <https://www.complex.com/life/2020/03/covid-19-people-flushing-disinfecting-wipes-down-toilet-pipe-problems>.

Please be safe and thank you for following the community suggestions in these trying times.

Best to all—Your STEP Board of Directors

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