

# Monroe Township Municipal Authority News

*August 2019*

## **What not to Flush:** Common Sense Rules for Disposal of Waste

Residents on public sewers are reminded to only dispose of toilet paper, human waste and gray water into the sewer system. Gray water is water that has been used for things like bathing, cleaning, and laundry.

Do not flush:

- Rags, towels, cleaning cloths or wipes  
(even if the packaging says they are flushable!)
- Disposable diapers
- Paper towels or napkins
- Feminine paper products
- Oil and grease
- Paint and solvents

When the above items are disposed of into sinks or toilets, they create maintenance problems for our sewer system.

Maintenance problems translate to increased costs and ultimately increased user fees. These products must be disposed of properly through domestic trash or an appropriate recycling center.

Monroe Township Ordinance #3 of 1978, Article VII, Section 703. F, states that "Prohibited Wastes" are described in part as: "Any ashes, cinders, sand, mud, straw, shavings, metal, glass, rags, bones, feathers, tar, cotton, wool, plastics, or other fibers, wood, paunch manure, butchers offal, or any other solid or viscous substance which shall be capable of causing obstruction to the flow in any Sewer or interference with the proper operation of the Sewer System or the Sewage Treatment Plant."

## *Always Invited*

All of Monroe's meetings are open to the public.

Please feel free to attend to see firsthand all that goes into supporting our hometown and to maybe see how you can get involved.

Check out Monroe Township's website for more info and the meeting schedules for all of our Township's leadership boards: Board of Supervisors, Recreation, Municipal Authority, Planning Commission & Zoning Hearing.

*Monroetwp.net*

*717-258-6642*

*717-697-4613*

*1220 Boiling Springs Rd,  
Mechanicsburg PA 17055*

*Turn over for more information* 

## Sewer Clean Outs: What are they and what do I need to know?

The sewer clean out is a capped pipe located on or near your property line which is part of the lateral sewer line. A lateral sewer line is the pipe which connects your home's sewer lines to the municipal sewer line. When the lateral clogs, it can cause sewage to back up, creating both a mess and a health hazard. Having a sewer clean out enables you to keep the lines clean and drain water if a back up occurs.

Most homes typically have two sewer clean outs that are connected underground to the sewer lateral. One clean out is near where your sewer lateral exits the house and the other is at the right of way where the lateral connects to the sewer main.

Clean outs are commonly PVC pipe, but can be cast iron on older connections, about four to six inches in diameter and stick out of the ground. However, it is not uncommon for the clean out to be at ground level or even slightly buried. There should be a cap that screws into the pipe and prevents ground water from entering the sewer system. It is critical for the cap to be on and in good condition, especially when the clean out is low to the ground. If the cap or the pipe is damaged, ground water will enter the sewer system (see I&I discussed in our May News bulletin). When ground water enters the system, our treatment costs increase.

Damage to the cap can be easily caused by aging, lawnmowers and other work that could have occurred in close proximity to the clean out. Please locate and regularly check your clean outs. If the cap or pipe is damaged, please contact the Township Office (717-258-6642 or 717-697-4613) we will be happy to provide a replacement and advise on possible repairs.

Thank you for helping to maintain our system and control costs.

*Sewer Lateral and Clean Out Diagram*

