

The Full Circle

Current news and helpful tips from Carmel Utilities

Don't flush that wipe!

Class action and individual lawsuits have been filed in courts around the country against the manufacturers of so called "flushable" wipes. The packaging of many wipes state that they are flushable; but most times they are not.

Unfortunately, the majority of wipes on the market don't biodegrade quickly enough to avoid clogging pipes. Toilet paper disintegrates almost immediately, but disposable wipes wreak havoc on sewer systems.

After being flushed, many times wipes get caught in a home's plumbing system. Once stuck, wipes eventually create a blockage. Other things catch on and the next thing the homeowner knows is that they are calling a plumber and paying a few hundred dollars to get their drain snaked.

If a wipe does make its way through the home's plumbing system, it can make it all the way to the lift stations or wastewater treatment plant where they just wrap themselves around the equipment. This results in damaged equipment and additional repair and maintenance expense.

**Carmel Utilities thanks you
for not flushing that wipe!**



Grant money available for youth environmental projects



Carmel Utilities is a proud sponsor of the Carmel Green Teens Micro-grant Program. This teen group offers grants for youth-led environmental projects in Carmel. Up to \$1000 is available to fund youth-led volunteer eco-friendly projects in Carmel or Clay Township. Applications are due February 29, 2016. Awards will be distributed by March 31, 2016, in plenty of time for Earth Day or Arbor Day projects.



Sample projects include:

- planting trees (to reduce CO₂)
- purchasing and distributing rain barrels, recycling containers, or compost bins
- creating organic community or school gardens or compost bins
- hosting roadside and waterways clean-up events
- educational campaigns to encourage carbon reduction
- any green youth-driven project, be creative

Projects must be designed and carried out by young people, with adults serving as "guides on the side."

School, scout, religious and other youth groups are encouraged to apply.



**Applications and details are available at
CarmelGreenTeen.org or call 317-571-2673**

Prepare Your Home For Winter Weather

Winter weather is here and the City of Carmel Utilities would like to remind you to take precautions to protect the plumbing in your home from freezing during extremely cold temperatures.

- If you have pipes along an outside wall allow a small trickle of water to run at night to keep the pipes from freezing. The cost of the extra water is low compared to a frozen pipe.
- Open cabinet doors to expose pipes along outside walls to warmer room temperatures.
- Know where your main water shut-off valve is. If a pipe freezes or breaks, shut the water off immediately.
- Keep your garage door closed whenever possible during cold spells.
- Insulate both hot and cold water pipes in an area that is likely to freeze since hot water pipes have a tendency to freeze first.



If you are traveling during periods of cold weather, you may want to take the following precautions in addition to the ones above.

- If you live in a single family home consider turning off the water to your house at the meter. In Carmel usually the meter is located in a pit by the front sidewalk.
- Make arrangements with a friend or neighbor to periodically check on your house to make sure the heat is working.
- Never turn off your heat or turn the thermostat below 60 degrees.
- Turn down the temperature on your hot water heater to save energy but do not turn the unit off.



If your pipes do freeze it is quite possible that your water meter is frozen. Please call Carmel Utilities Customer Service Department at 317-571-2442 and we will send someone to unfreeze your water meter for you.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site

The average American household generates about 20 pounds of household hazardous waste each year. For the City of Carmel that adds up to 270 tons of hazardous material that can find its way to our rivers, streams and groundwater supply if not disposed of properly.

To help prevent ground water contamination the City of Carmel Utilities operates a household hazardous waste collection site. Disposal privileges are available to all Carmel residents.

Carmel Household Hazardous Waste Disposal Facility

901 N. Range Line Road (driveway next to the Hagan-Burke Trail)

Sunday & Monday: Closed

Tuesday–Friday: 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m. – Noon

Remember the disposal site when cleaning out your garage, basement, kitchen or bathrooms and have unwanted household chemicals, cleaning supplies, oil-based paint, etc.

For a complete list of items accepted, refer to www.carmel.in.gov under the Utilities Department, Household Hazardous Waste tab.