

On-Time Plumbing Reviews the Federal Wipe Labeling Bill and Sewer Guidance on Flushable Wipes

November 23, 2026

SHELBYVILLE, TN - November 23, 2026 -
Like hidden wall leaks, clogs from flushed wipes can go unnoticed until water starts draining slowly. On-Time Plumbing is outlining local sewer guidance and explaining what a federal labeling proposal would mean for homeowners in Shelbyville and nearby communities. The bill would require warning labels on certain disposable wipes.

For homeowners wondering whether flushable wipes are safe for plumbing, the Shelbyville Power, Water and Sewerage System recommends keeping all wipes out of the sewer, regardless of the label. A wipe can clear the toilet and still get caught farther down the line.

In its ?Help Us Protect Our Sewer System!? section, the utility also advises customers to keep grease and oil out of drains and to dispose of medications without flushing them.

Many wipes stay intact longer than toilet paper. In the public sewer, they can accumulate in pipes or jam

pumps. The local sewer system serves about 9,830 accounts and operates 24 lift stations that pump wastewater toward the treatment plant. The plant can treat up to 6.5 million gallons of wastewater per day.

A septic system treats a home?s wastewater on the property. For households that rely on one, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recommends flushing only human waste and toilet paper.

The agency identifies both baby wipes and wipes labeled flushable as items that can clog pipes. A clog can disrupt the flow of wastewater through the septic system and contribute to system failure.

For homes connected to the public sewer, the city?s sewer use ordinance, amended in May 2024, makes owners responsible for maintaining the portion of the building sewer on private property. The building sewer carries wastewater from the home to the public sewer.

A buildup of wipes in the privately maintained portion can slow drainage from the home or cause wastewater to back up into a fixture.

The federal Wastewater Infrastructure Pollution Prevention and Environmental Safety Act, known as the WIPPES Act, would require a ?Do Not Flush? warning and symbol on certain disposable wipes. The House passed a companion bill (H.R. 2269) on June 23, 2025. The Senate passed its amended bill (S. 1092) on March 22, 2026, and the House received it on March 24.

The Senate bill remains pending in the House. It covers certain premoistened, nonwoven, disposable wipes sold or offered for retail sale, including those marketed as baby or diapering wipes. The bill also covers household and personal care wipes made at least partly from petrochemical-derived fibers if there is a significant chance they?ll be flushed.

Under that definition, some disinfecting wipes and makeup remover wipes would carry the same warning as baby wipes. The Federal Trade Commission would enforce the labeling requirement and the ban on any express or implied claim that a covered wipe can or should be flushed. The commission would issue compliance guidance within 180 days of enactment.

The requirements would take effect one year after enactment. For covered products, the federal requirements would supersede state or local rules that set different ?Do Not Flush? labeling requirements.

Products packaged or sold before the effective date would be exempt. Wipes outside the bill?s definition could also appear on shelves without the warning. Wipes can still clog pipes even when the package carries no warning.

On-Time Plumbing is a veteran-owned, family-owned plumbing company based in Shelbyville. The company is licensed and insured, and its team has more than 15 years of combined plumbing experience. For homeowners in the surrounding area, the team cleans drains and performs sewer camera inspections, and it repairs sewer lines and toilets.

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On-Time Plumbing

On-Time Plumbing proudly serves Shelbyville, TN & the surrounding areas with dependable residential & commercial plumbing solutions. We bring strong family values, professionalism, & a commitment to customer satisfaction in every job.

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