



The Right Tools to Wipe out the Wipes Crisis

JWC Environmental



Agenda:

1. What's Up With Wipes?
2. Pathways to a Solution
3. New Approach



What's Up With Wipes?

Introduced in early 2000's
for cleaning and
bathroom use

Wipes Fill a Need

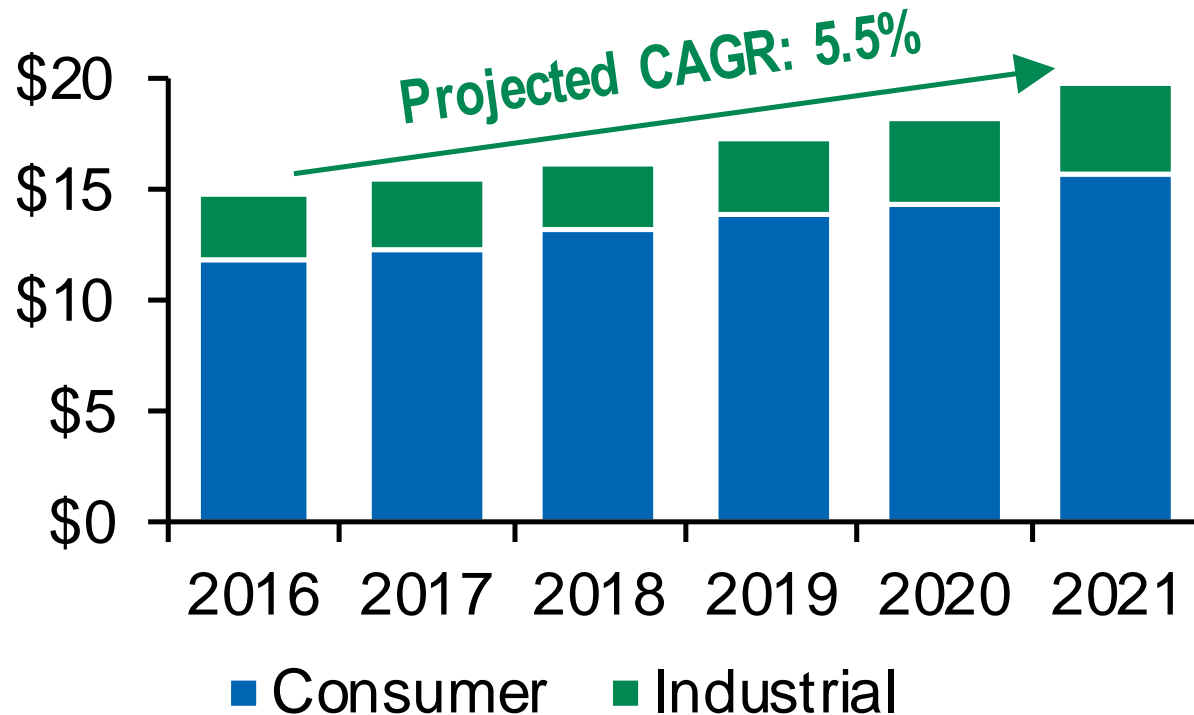
- Hygienic
- Convenient
- High Performance

*All at an attractive
Price Point*





Consumer & Industrial Wipes Sales 2016-2021 (\$ millions)



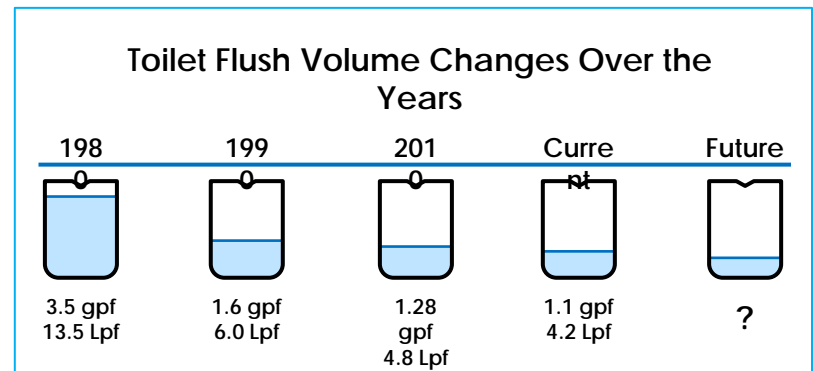
5.5% Annual Growth Rate

- \$14 Billion per year business in 2016



Adoption of Low-Flow Toilets

- New toilets are limited to a maximum of 1.6 gallons per flush, instead of the legacy 3.5 to 5 gallons
- Since the efficiency standards became law, research shows the United States saves 7 billion gallons of water a day
- Low-Flow toilets have led to higher proportions of solids in the wastewater stream, leading to a potentially harmful effect on downstream pumps and equipment
- Solid waste concentration will increase as residential toilets continue to become more efficient





How Big is the Problem?

- Increased maintenance - \$20-30k/year/station
- Increased electrical costs - \$30k/year/station for Vancouver, WA
- Seattle spends \$500,000/year removing wipes from pump stations





Disposable vs. Flushable vs. Dispersible

- Early Wipes Technology – Spunlaced Nonwovens
 - Rayon, Polyester, Nylon with Cellulose
 - Described by some as “Indestructible pieces of plastic”

Disposable

Designed for single use

Flushable

Will not clog you toilet & plumbing?

or

Will not harm septic or municipal system?

Dispersible

Will breakdown in sewer.....

Like toilet paper?

Some time in the future?



What's Causing the Clog?

40% paper towels
20% baby wipes
15% cleaning wipes

14% feminine products
8% "flushables" wipes



50% of Baby Wipes
Purchased by Households With No Children



How Will We Prevent This?





Lift Station Equipment Solutions for Wipes

Option 1

Pump Wipes to Headworks

Solids
Handling
Pump

Chopper
Pump

Grinder
with
Pump

Option 2

Remove
Wipes

Screens &
Augers



Solids Handling Pumps

How they work

- Screw-type impeller uses the leading edges to shear the solids
- Vortex-style impeller pushes the solids toward the discharge with little contact to impeller (Hydromatic, Fairbanks, Wilo)



Considerations

- Moves the problem to downstream equipment
 - Required to change out all pumps
- Rated to pass a spherical non-compressible 3" solid (a baseball)
- Inefficient hydraulically (vortex)
 - Requires more energy to move the same amount of water
- Potential for reweaving





Chopper Pumps

How they work

- Operate at High speed/Low cutting torque
- Blades and wear plates chop like a macerator

Considerations

- Pumps and Chops in a single unit
 - Not optimized for both
- Not able to handle tougher solids
 - Speed to pump reduces torque to cut
- Higher energy costs
 - Needs larger motor
- Typically used in lower flows
- Potential for reweaving of cut wipes





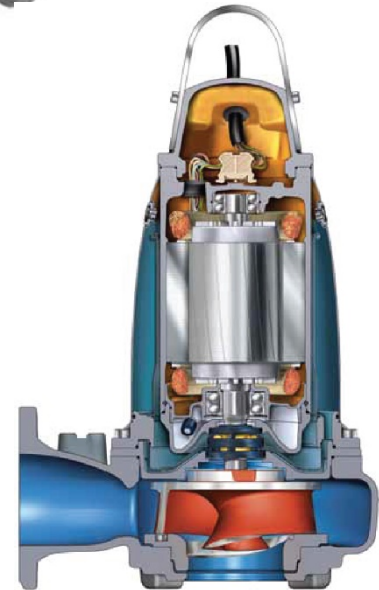
Pumps Are Trying to Change

Multiple Impeller options

- Vortex, Chopper, Screw-Type

But...

- Does it fit hydraulically?
- What else has to be upgraded?
- Is it efficient?
- What is "normal sewage"?





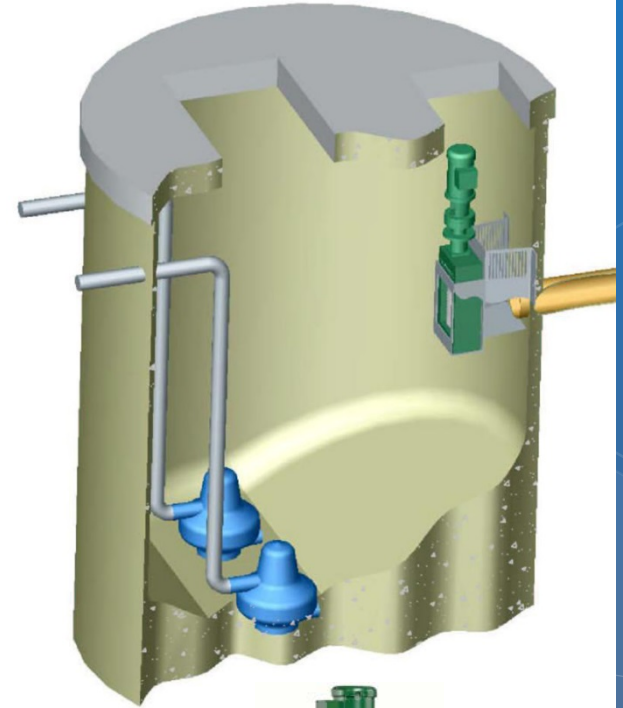
Grinder with Pump

How they work

- Two rotating cutter shafts operate at low speed with high torque to macerate solids
- Solids small enough to be pumped on to headworks

Considerations

- Can be utilized with existing pump systems
- Must have space for installation in wet well or install manhole system upstream
- Some two shafted grinder systems produce long strips which can reweave into ragballs



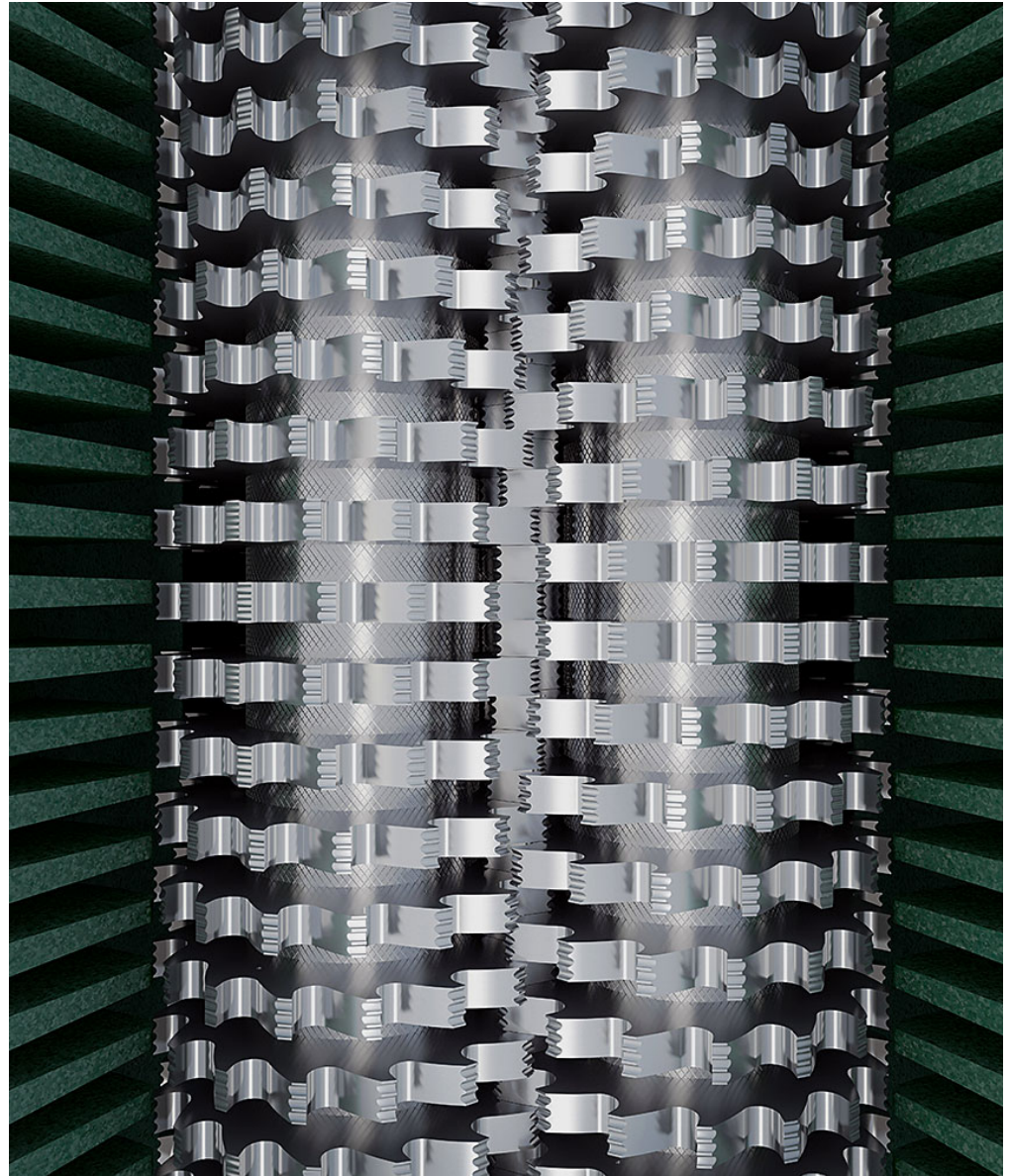


Reweaving

- Whole and cut wipes can “Reweave” in the collections systems
 - Form “mats” in wet wells
 - Form “ropes” in piping
- Problem is worse when combined with FOG and hair
- “Ragballs”, “mats” and “ropes” can not be pumped once they form

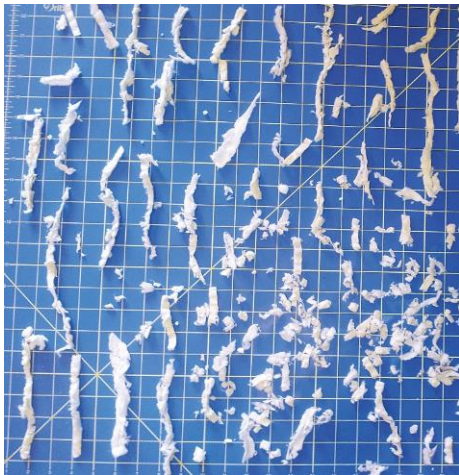


Re-Engineering Sewage Grinders





17 Tooth Serrated Cutters



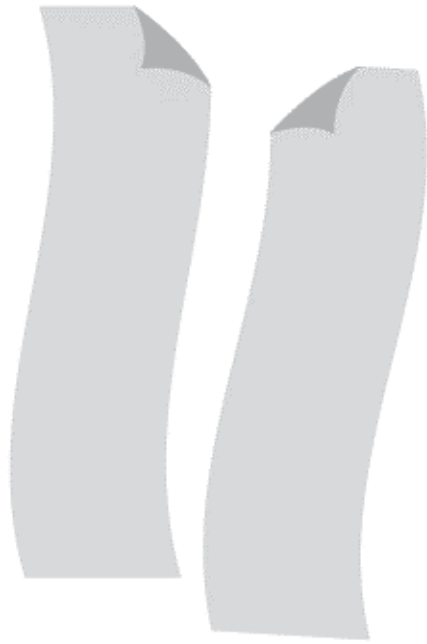
Typical Grinders



17 tooth

- Cuts 2 directions
- Works against knurled spacer
- Shafts Operating at different speeds
- 51% Reduction in Long Strips





Long strips cut in 1
direction

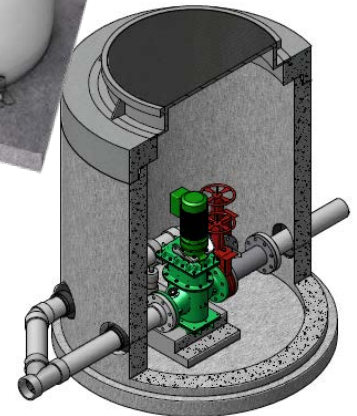
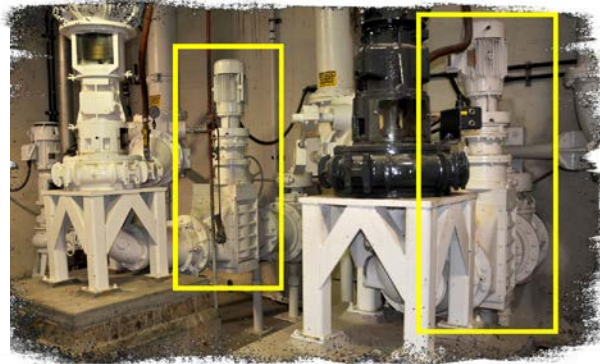
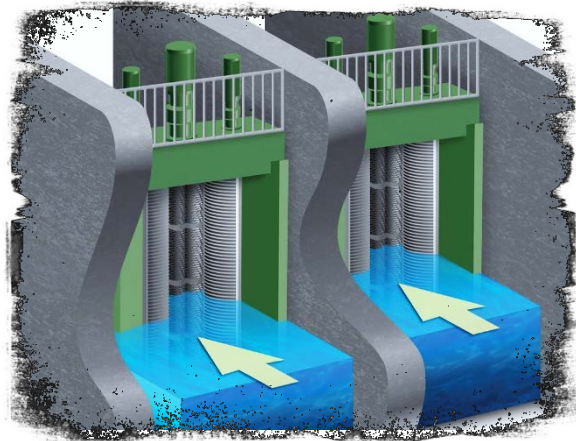


Cut in 2
directions w
cuts 2 ways

2 direction cutting = No Reweaving



Grinders Can Fit Almost Anywhere





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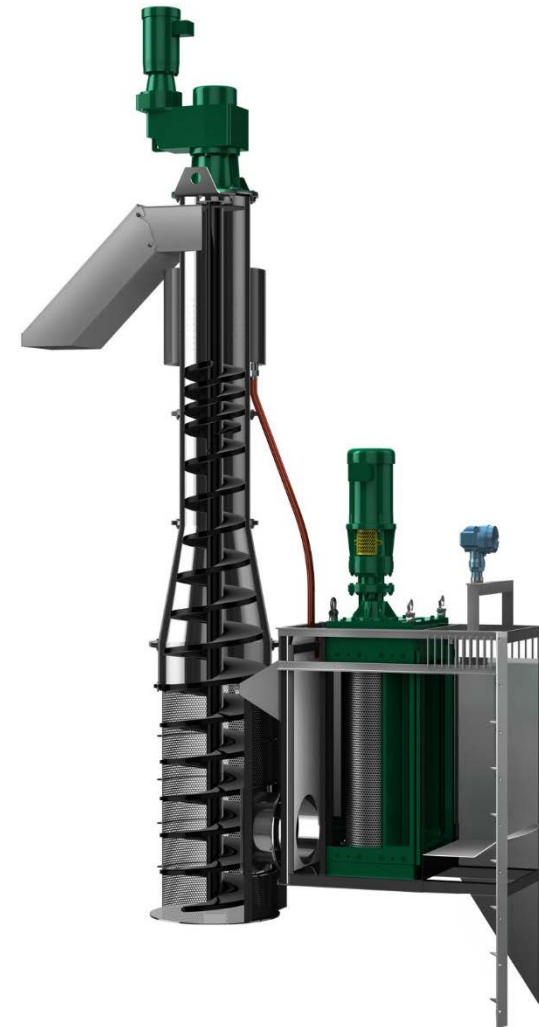
Chopper
Pump

Grinder
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Option 2

Remove
Wipes

Screens &
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Capture/Cut/Remove at Lift Station



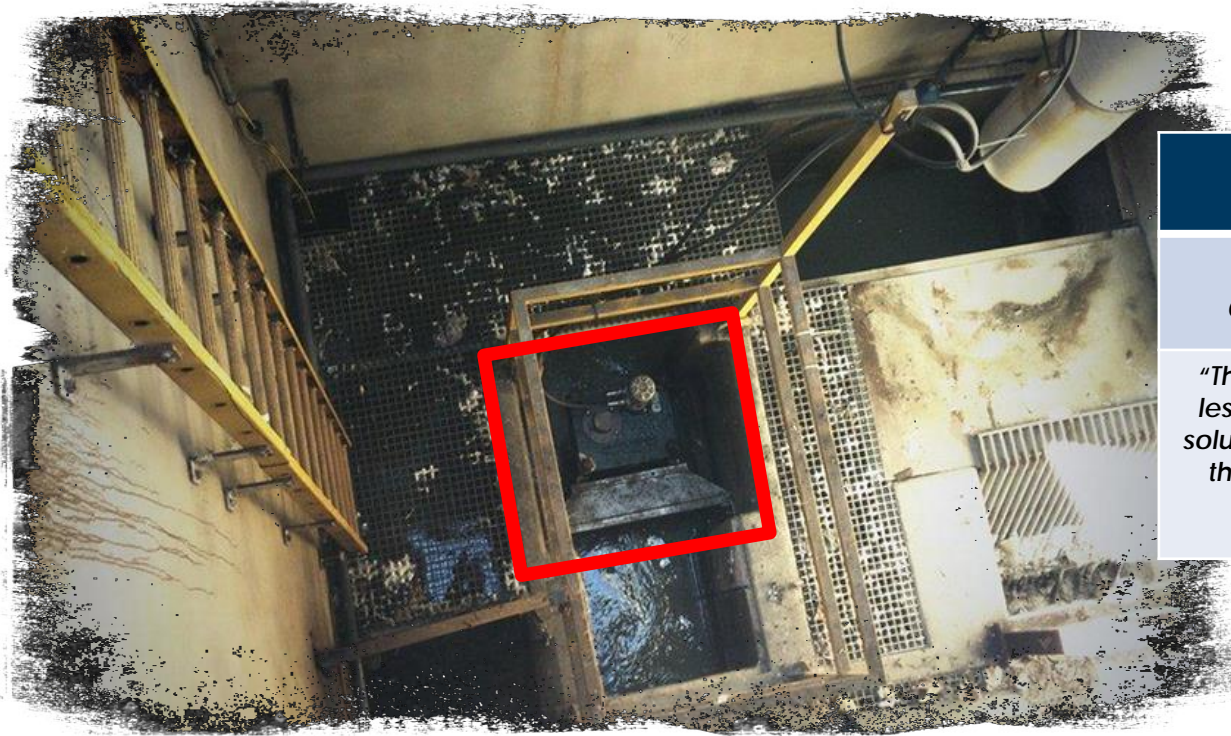
Remove



Better Sewer Technologies - Finescreens



In-Channel Grinder Success



Case Study

Santa Margarita WD
Orange County, California

"This upgrade cost significantly less than new pumps. Plus, this solution will completely eliminate the pump clogging problems we were having."
- Plant Superintendent

Sliced Annual Pumping Energy Costs by \$78k



Don't be a Fatberg – Let's Solve this



Questions & Answers

