

Residential Oil and Grease

WHY IS OIL AND GREASE A PROBLEM?

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) can cause serious problems for the sanitary sewer collection system. FOG can clog the flow in drains and sewers. Sewer pipes blocked by grease are an increasingly common cause of sewage overflows.

Grease that is poured down the sink drain is often a warm liquid. It may not appear harmful but as the liquid cools, the grease solidifies and causes buildup inside the pipes, becoming a hardened mass. The buildup restricts the flow of sewage and clogs the pipes. The consequences of pouring grease down the drain can be:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home
- An unpleasant and costly clean up at the homeowners expense
- Raw sewage is environmentally harmful if it is overflowing into parks, yards, streets, and local waterways, due to a build up of grease
- Potential contact with disease causing organisms
- Increased costs for local sewage departments, which results in higher sewer bills for customers

Each year, a considerable amount of time and money is spent cleaning clogged pipes throughout the County.

WHERE DO FATS, OILS, AND GREASE COME FROM?

Meats, sauces, gravies, salad dressings, deep fried dishes, dairy products, soups, chili, pastas, pastries, butter, and margarine are foods that contain fats, oil, and grease.

Grease is a common by-product of cooking and is the term used for animal fats and vegetable oils. It can be found in the following:

- **Meats**
- **Salad Dressings**
- **Soups**
- **Pastas**
- **Cooking Oil**
- **Sauces**
- **Dairy Products**
- **Chili**
- **Lards**
- **Butter or Margarine**
- **Baked Goods**
- **Food Scraps**

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash basket for disposal.
- Need to soak a greasy pan? Simply wipe it out with a paper towel before putting it into the sink.
- NEVER pour grease down the sink drain or into the toilet.
- Hot water is not the solution. Once the grease & water cool, the grease deposits onto the sides of the sewer pipe, creating a problem.
- Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids
- Inform your friends and neighbours about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out of the system
- Place grease into a glass jar or metal can and store it under your kitchen sink. The grease will then solidify and can be placed into the garbage or green bin, or fed to the birds in suet feeders.