



How can homeowners help protect their plumbing and our environment?

- Never pour grease down sinks, toilets, or any drains
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal
- Use strainers in sinks to catch food scraps and empty the strainers into the trash
- Don't rely on a garbage disposal to get rid of grease- it grinds food into smaller pieces, but it doesn't keep grease from going down the drain
- Wipe or scrape cookware and dishes well before washing- commercial additives in detergents only dissolve grease temporarily
- Clean kitchen exhaust system filters routinely
- Talk with your friends and neighbors about the grease problem, so that the community is aware of the risk
- *Please use caution when pouring hot grease or wait for it to cool slightly- hot grease can burn skin!*

What can you do?

CAN YOUR GREASE! Dispose of grease in a way that is good for your plumbing.

A metal coffee can with a plastic lid or empty metal soup or vegetable cans make great grease cans. Line your can with disposable heat-resistant oven bags. Throw the liners away after the grease cools and reuse the cans.

Following these guidelines will help avoid costly plumbing repairs associated with clogged pipes, drains, or other plumbing and avoid potential fines, penalties, or invoices for damage to sewer systems.

Safety Tip

If you have a grease-related sewer backup, avoid direct contact or wash thoroughly with soap and water. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) says skin contact isn't a serious health risk, but swallowing bacteria or a virus may cause illness. Always wash your hands before preparing or eating food, after using the bathroom, and after touching objects exposed to a backup.



Troy Water and Sewer Division
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FATS, OILS & GREASE

Decreasing FOG in sanitary sewers and storm drains through proper grease disposal



Causing a blockage in a sanitary sewer line is a violation of the Federal Clean Water Act

TWSD

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Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) can have negative impacts on wastewater collection and treatment systems. Most wastewater collection system blockages can be traced to FOG. These blockages are serious, causing sewage spills, manhole overflows, or sewage backups in homes and businesses.



Clogged Drain



Clear Drain

Why is cooking grease a problem?

When you pour cooking grease down your drains, it may build up, block your pipes, and cause unpleasant odors or messy, costly sewage backups in your home. It can also clog sewer lines. In fact, grease is the leading cause of sewer overflows, which are a potential threat to our health, homes, and environment.

Contrary to popular belief, running hot water after pouring grease down the drain doesn't work. The grease eventually cools, then congeals and coats pipes. When enough grease builds up, it can block your plumbing, sewer lines, and even pumps. It is important to can, cool, and trash grease.

By taking simple steps to properly dispose of FOG in your home, you can greatly decrease the risk of a backup or overflow.

COOKING GREASE IS THE #1 CAUSE OF SEWER BACKUPS IN HOMES



Never pour grease down the drain.

Scrape grease and food scraps from all cookware and dishes into a trash can for proper disposal.

Common Sources of FOG



Fried foods



Cooking meats



Gravy and sauces



Mayonnaise and salad dressings



Butter, ice cream, and other dairy products

What problems are caused by grease?

- Clogged drains or toilets
- Sewage backups into your home
- Sewer overflows in neighborhood parks, yards, and streets
- Unpleasant odors
- Expensive cleanup, repair, and replacement of damaged property (often paid by you, the homeowner)
- Potential contact with bacteria and viruses that can cause illness
- Higher operating and maintenance costs to the municipality, potentially resulting in higher sewer bills for you



Can It



Cool It



Trash It