

Isn't throwing grease into the landfill just creating a different problem?

FOG effectively breaks down under landfill conditions over time. Fats, oils and grease cause greater environmental problems when they enter the wastewater system and travel to the treatment plant and eventually end up in our waterways.

What about businesses?

FOG is discharged not only by residents but also by businesses. Restaurants are required to install and maintain grease traps or interceptors and have a management plan in place to prevent FOG discharge. All employees should be trained to properly handle used fats, oil and grease. Other industrial businesses are regulated and inspected regularly to ensure minimal FOG discharge.

**Working together we
can help prevent
sewer clogging and
sanitary sewer
overflows (SSOs) and
protect our
environment.**



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FOG

Fats, Oils and Grease

FOG Prevention with your help

Help stop FOG from clogging your home pipes and costing you money.

Help stop FOG from entering your local sewer sanitary system and the environment.

What is FOG?



FOG stands for Fats, Oil and Grease produced from food preparation, packaged foods and food scraps. FOG should **never** be put down any sink drain. FOG should be disposed of in the trash.

Where does it come from?

Homes, restaurants, schools, churches, food processing plants, hospitals, hotels, shopping malls and many other establishments produce FOG.

It is	x Meat fats	x Lard
found	x Cooking oil	x Butter
in	x Margarine	x Shortening
things	x Cooking scraps	x Dairy Products
like:	x Sauces	x Dressings

Why shouldn't fats, oils and grease go down the drain?

When FOG goes down the drain it enters into the sanitary sewer system and sticks to the inside of sewer pipes. It will build up and harden in the pipes and cause blockages which result in Sanitary Sewer Overflows and sewage backups **in your home**. Sanitary Sewer Overflows are a potential threat to our health, homes and environment. 65% of all sewer spills are FOG-related.



How does it affect me?

Improper FOG disposal leads to costly sewer backups and overflows, increased sewer rates and public health and environmental hazards. FOG build-up in sewer pipes is costly to clean requiring public works staff to go to the site and remove the blockage.



Clogged sewer pipes can also cost you a lot of money and inconvenience if your sewer system backs up onto your property.

What can I do?



-  Never pour oil and grease down the sink, toilet or any drains.
-  Put used oil and grease in covered containers and cans for proper disposal.
-  Wipe down greasy pots and pans with a dry paper towel and dispose of in the trash.
-  Scrape food scraps and discards into the trash.
-  Avoid using the garbage disposal.
-  Don't rely on a garbage disposal to get rid of grease- it grinds it into smaller pieces but it doesn't keep grease from going down the drain.
-  Don't run hot water over greasy pans or use hot water to wash grease down the drain. The grease will eventually cool and congeal in your pipes.

Why should I help?

-  Stop sewer overflows into your home, yard, streets and storm drains.
-  Avoid spending money on costly cleanups of sewage spills and regulatory fines.
-  Reduce the number of times you have to clean your pipes.
-  Protect the quality of our water.
-  Prevent grease buildup from blocking sewer lines.
-  Reduce cost of grease removal from sewer system.

More ways to tackle grease

Use environmentally safe cleaning products instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer lines.

If you generate large amounts of used cooking oil, reuse or recycle it. If you generate small amounts of cooking oil, reuse it as often as possible and then pour it into a disposal container. Never pour it down the drain.

Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as kitty litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.

Keep drains clean by pouring ½ cup baking soda down the drain followed by ½ cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Start a compost pile at your home with scraps that are not meat.

Find out about composting at:
[http://msue.anr.msu.edu/
topic/info/soils_composting](http://msue.anr.msu.edu/topic/info/soils_composting)

