

Keep It Clear: Safeguarding Our Sewer Systems

When fats, oils and grease go down the sink, it might appear harmless in its liquid form, but as it cools, it hardens. Over time, substance builds up and blocks not only your home's pipes but also the public sewage system. These blockages can lead to costly repairs, environmental harm and sewer overflows.

What are the impacts of fats, oil and grease in our sewer systems?

Municipality Costs:

Blocked sewers must be cleaned or replaced. Both repairs are expensive because they require specialized equipment and trained public works staff to remove the blockage safely. The need for additional cleaning could require increased sewer rates.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows:

When fats, oils and grease enter the sanitary sewer system, it sticks and builds inside the sewer pipes, reducing the pipe capacity and increasing the likelihood of a sanitary sewer overflow. A sanitary sewer overflow is when sewers spill sewage outside.

What counts as fats, oils and grease?

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Shortening
- Cooking oil
- Butter
- Margarine
- Cooking scraps

“Did you know **FOG** is used as an official acronym for fats, oils and grease?”

-Reese the Grease

“65% of all sewer spills are **FOG** related.”
-Reese the Grease



Washing Myths Away

Myth: Hot water helps grease drainage.

Fact: Hot water might help liquefy grease, but it will solidify further down the pipes when it cools.

Myth: The garbage disposal will remove grease.

Fact: The garbage disposal will grind grease into smaller pieces, but it won't stop it from going down the drain. Instead, scrape food scraps into the trash.

Myth: Soap will break grease down.

Fact: Soap might help clean grease temporarily, but it will still thicken, sticking to the pipes further down the line, resulting in a blockage over time.

Myth: Isn't throwing grease into the landfill problematic?

Fact: Fats, oils and grease effectively breaks down under landfill conditions over time. These substances cause greater environmental problems when they build up in our systems.

Keeping FOG out of the sewer systems will:

- Prevent buildup from blocking sewer lines.
- Reduce the cost of removal from sewer systems.
- Avoid sanitary sewer overflows.
- Lower the expense of cleaning up spills.
- Decrease the frequency of having to clean pipes.
- Protect water quality and the environment.

Seven Helpful Tips

1. Put grease into a container, let it solidify, and then dispose in the trash.
2. Wipe down pots with a dry paper towel.
3. Choose eco-friendly cleaning agents.
4. Reuse cooking oil.
5. Combine liquid vegetable oil with absorbents before discarding.
6. Clean drains—use baking soda, vinegar and hot water.
7. Start compost pile.



“Small changes can make a huge difference. Let's act responsibly for a cleaner and safer tomorrow!”
- Reese the Grease



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