



# GREASE FACT SHEET

Residents can help prevent pipe blockages and sewer overflows by keeping grease out of the sewer system. Sewer backups can cause damage to homes and health hazards, and can threaten the environment. Sewer pipes blocked by grease are an increasingly common cause of overflows.

## Where does grease come from?

Fats, Oils, and Grease are a natural consequence of cooking and occur naturally in many foods. Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oils. It can be found in such items as:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Butter and margarine
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Food scraps
- Baking goods

## What are the grease issues?

Grease is frequently poured down the sink drain. The warm oils are liquid, can be poured and thought to be harmless. It may not appear to be 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 implications can be:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home.
- Increased calls for a plumber.
- An unpleasant and expensive cleanup at your expense.
- Raw sewage overflowing into

parks, yards and streets.

- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms.
- Increased cost for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers

## Here's What You Can Do:

- Never pour grease down the sink or into the toilet.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a disposable container or place in a trash can (after cooling).
- Do not put food scraps down the garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and will not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids.



## Contact Us

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