

# Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) No Grease Down the Drain



Picture provided by the Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland, Oregon

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) is a byproduct of cooking. FOG comes from meat, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products.

When grease washes down the sink, it sticks to the insides of the pipes that connect your home or business to GAWSA's sewer. It also coats the insides of GAWSA's sewer pipes.

Eventually, the grease can build up until it completely blocks sewer pipes. That can create difficult and expensive maintenance problems for both GAWSA and private property owners.

Blocked sewer pipes can cause raw sewage to back up into your home or business, or overflow into streets and streams.

## Grease Can Completely Block Sewer Pipes

Garbage disposals don't keep grease out of sewer pipes. Products that claim to dissolve grease may dislodge a blockage, but will only cause problems farther on down the line when the grease hardens again.

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place. Here are some ways to do this:

## DO!



Put oil and grease in covered containers and put in trash can for disposal.



Scrape food scraps into trash can and garbage bags and dispose of properly. Avoid using your garbage disposal.



Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers and griddles before rinsing. Cool first before you skim, scrape or wipe off excess grease.



Put basket/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty into the trash for disposal.



Cover floor drain with fine screen and empty into trash as needed.

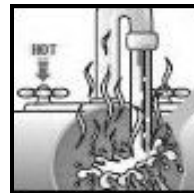
## DON'T!



Don't pour oil and grease down sink drains or into toilets.



Don't put food scraps down the drain.



Don't run water over dishes, pans and fryers to wash oil and grease down the drain.

Don't rinse off oil and grease with hot water.

- Prevent grease buildups from blocking sewer lines.
- Stop sewer overflows into streets and storm drains.
- Save money spent on costly cleanups of sewage spills.
- Reduce the number of times you have to clean your grease trap (food establishments).
- Protect the quality of our water.

## **NOTICE**

**DO NOT  
THROW TRASH  
IN TOILET**



Flushing the wrong things down the toilet can result in costly sewer backups on your own property or problems at GAWSA's pump stations and wastewater treatment facility. Please do not flush any of the following:

- Rags and towels (including paper towels)
- Diapers and baby wipes
- Sponges and cleaning wipes
- Disposable toilet brushes
- Kitty litter and aquarium gravel
- Rubber items such as latex gloves
- Plastic items
- Anything marked "Disposable"  
(Disposable does not mean flushable)
- Condoms
- Hair
- Toys
- Cotton swabs
- Syringes
- Sanitary napkins
- Underwear
- Cigarette butts
- Food wrappers
- Egg Shells

## **PROPERLY DISPOSE OF ALL UNWANTED DRUGS**

Studies have shown that the chemicals in many prescription and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs can harm fish and other aquatic life. The wastewater treatment plants are designed to treat human waste and biodegradable material; they are not equipped to filter out all traces of these chemicals, which can end up in our rivers. Instead of flushing, please safely dispose of all unwanted and expired prescription and OTC drugs by taking them to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office or by using the following guidelines:

- Take them out of their original containers.
- Put them in a sealable container (such as a coffee can or yogurt container).
- Mix with an undesirable substance (such as used coffee grounds or kitty litter).
- Seal the container and put in the trash can.

