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Fats, Oils, and Grease

Keeping Fats, Oils, and Grease out of the Sewer System

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) poured down kitchen drains accumulate inside sewer pipes. As the FOG builds up, it restricts the flow in the pipe and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses, resulting in high costs for cleanup and restoration. Following these dos and don'ts will help you and your neighbors avoid expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies, and rate increases to cover sewer maintenance and repairs, while helping protect water quality in your community due to overflows.

Do

- **Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it in the garbage.** This may be achieved by pouring small amounts over newspaper or paper towels and place in garbage. To recycle large amounts, such as what's left over from a catfish fry or frying a turkey, contact Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center at 6400 Bridge St. in Fort Worth (817) 871-5257. If you have a lot of oil to dispose of, use clay cat litter. Just mix the litter, a little at a time, into the oil. When all the oil has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag, seal the bag, and then dispose of it in your regular trash.
- **Compost food scraps or scrape them into the trash, not the sink.**
- **Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them.** Then throw away the paper towels.
- **Place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain when rinsing dishware,** or when peeling or trimming food, to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain. Compost food scraps, or throw them in the trash.
- **Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.** Hot water melts the fats, oils, and grease (FOG) off the dishes and into the sewer pipes where it solidifies. Later on in the sewer, the hot water will cool and the FOG will clog the pipes.

Don't

- **Don't use a garbage disposal or food grinder.** Grinding food up before rinsing it down the drain does not remove FOG; it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps can plug sewer lines. So don't put food of any kind down the drain.
- **Don't pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings, or sauces down the sink or toilet, or into street gutters or storm drains.**
- **Don't use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or clean greasy or oily dishware.** When you wash them, the grease will end up in the sewer.
- **Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain**

Water Resource Services 200 North Cooper Phone: **817-459-5902** Fax: **817-459-5874**

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Print page using 8.5" by 11" (letter) size paper setting. For best results, print in color using a heavier card stock rather than a lighter weight paper. Once printed, cut out door hangers, following dotted lines.