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## **Proper Disposal of Fats, Oil, Grease and Food Scraps "Use Your Drain Wisely"**

To avoid problems during the preparation of meals cooked with grease, the City of Arlington Water Utilities is reminding residents to properly feed home wastewater systems.

Not all food items are meant to be disposed of in the sanitary sewer. Improper feeding of garbage disposals and piping can result in a plugged drain that can necessitate an emergency visit by a plumber.

Web sites, television, flyers, posters and brochures are being used to remind residents how to properly dispose of waste materials from meals.

A paper towel can be used to soak up small amounts of cooking oil. Cooking grease can also be poured into a container (such as a coffee can) with paper towels or absorbent materials and placed in the trash. Large quantities of cooking oil and grease can be taken to the Fort Worth Environmental Collection Center at 6400 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. Call 817-871-5257 for information or go to [www.dfwstormwater.com](http://www.dfwstormwater.com) or [www.arlingtontx.gov/fog](http://www.arlingtontx.gov/fog) .

Large amounts of used cooking oil from fried meals can be filtered, frozen and reused for the preparation of another meal. To place large amounts of oil in the trash, kitty litter can be used to absorb the oil, which can then be placed in the garbage.

Table scraps can be placed in the garbage. Vegetables and fruit can be placed in a backyard composting pile.

According to Julie Hunt, the city's Director of Utilities, these items can block an entire pipeline, and cause sewer backups and overflows when they are placed down a drain. As sewer pipelines clog, sewage and food particles can attract insects, and create potential environmental health hazards.

Dumping oil, grease and food scraps into kitchen sinks, drains, toilets and storm drains can be costly to homeowners. The City of Arlington spends nearly half a million dollars annually responding to grease-related backups and overflows.

For more information about the proper disposal of fats, oil, grease and food scraps, call the Arlington Water Utilities Department at 817-459-6600.