

Fat Free Sewers: Be Careful of What You Put in Your Drain

Fats, oils, and greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for our sewers too! A common cause of sewer system overflows is pipes blocked by grease. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. Most of the grease in the Township's sewer system comes from household drains.

Where Does The Grease Come From?

Most of us know grease as a byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat Fats
- Lard
- Cooking Oil
- Shortening
- Butter and Margarine
- Food Scraps
- Baking Goods
- Sauces
- Dairy Products

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

The Results Can Be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that must be paid for by you, the homeowner;
- Raw sewage overflowing into public areas causing potential contact with disease-causing organisms; and
- High operation and maintenance costs for our sewer department, which causes higher sewer bills for you.

Proper Grease Disposal

DO:

- Scrape all food from plates and utensils into the garbage before rinsing, washing, or placing in dishwasher;
- Put all solid and liquid food, including dairy products, batters, sauces, and gravy into the garbage - **not down the sink**;
- Use a sink basket strainer to collect food waste; and
- Keep empty soup cans or small jars to collect cooking grease for disposal into the garbage.

DON'T:

- Pour grease down sink drains or into toilets;
- Put grease down garbage disposals; and
- Put any feminine hygiene products or prophylactics into the system. These cause worse blockage problems than grease to the sewers!

These are pictures of grease at the sewage treatment plant. All of this grease comes from your homes and businesses and must be removed from the facility manually.