



How to Prevent FOG from Damaging Your Home and the Environment

One of the leading causes of sewer overflows is grease blockages in sewer lines due to fats, oils and grease (FOG). Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment.

Grease can get into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Where does grease come from?

Most of us know grease is a byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces and soups and dairy products.

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system usually through the kitchen sink. Grease should never be poured down the drain. Many people are unaware that pouring hot water and detergent down the drain only breaks up grease temporarily. Grease then moves further down the sewer line and can cause problems in other areas. If a small amount of grease gets in to your drain, flush it immediately with cold water. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system.

When grease gets into a sewer line, it sticks to the insides of the pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease will build up and eventually block the entire pipe. The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing into your home
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by the homeowner
- Raw sewage overflowing into your yards and streets

What can you do to help?

- Never pour grease down the sink drains or toilets.
- Pour small amounts of grease into a non-recyclable container like a coffee can, pet food can or empty milk carton. Once hardened, dispose of the grease in the trash.
- Before washing, scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots, utensils and cooking surfaces.
- Never put grease down garbage disposals.
- Be cautious of chemicals and additives including soaps and detergents that claim to dissolve grease. Some of these additives simply pass grease down pipes where it can clog the sewer lines.

The City is working hard to protect our community from sewer backups but we need your help too!

Toilets Are **Not** Trashcans!



Another common way to damage pipes and create clogs is to use a toilet as a trash can. Only human waste (urine and feces) and toilet paper should ever be flushed down the toilet. These common items should **ALWAYS** be kept out of the toilet:

- Facial tissue (Kleenex)
- Paper towels
- Disposable diapers and baby wipes
- Tampons and tampon applicators, sanitary napkins, mini or maxi pads
- Cotton balls and swabs
- Hygiene wipes even if they say they are flushable
- Condoms
- Cleaning wipes of any kind
- Bandages and bandage wrappings
- Automotive fluids
- Paint, solvents, sealants and thinners
- Poisons and hazardous waste
- Cat litter even if it says it is flushable
- Unused medications (Shullsburg Police Department has a drop-off box for unused medications)
- Cigarette butts
- Food waste

For more information, please call the Shullsburg Wastewater Superintendent at 608-965-3258.