Keep Drains Clear

Follow These Tips:

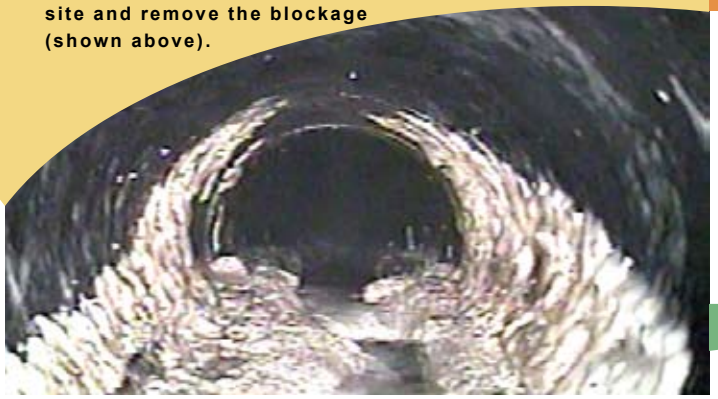
- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Share these tips with your family, friends and neighbors.

Do Not:

- Pour fat, oil or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
- Use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces.

FOG build-up in sewer pipes (shown below) is costly to clean requiring local public works staff to go to the site and remove the blockage (shown above).



Cleaning FOG build-up from sewers increases maintenance costs for everyone in the sewer system. FOG can create sewer overflows. Keep our environment clean and avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping fat, oil and grease out of our sewers.

Published through a collaborative effort of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and its customer communities.

Residents

FOG Prevention

protect our environment and keep drains clear of Fat, Oil and Grease

FOG affects everyone

FOG Prevention Protects the Environment

Fat, oil and grease in sewer pipes, referred to as FOG, create pollution problems in many communities. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential and commercial sink drains. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. FOG can build up and eventually block the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes can send sewage backward – out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains in homes. These sewage overflows pollute the environment.

Impact of FOG

Preventing sewer backups from FOG blockages saves residents money and protects the environment. When sewer pipes on private property back up, the homeowner is responsible for the cleanup. For example, if a resident regularly pours grease down a drain, it will eventually cool, harden and form a blockage in the sewer pipe. Sewage then backs up through floor drains and toilets at the lowest point in the house. A plumber will have to be hired to clean the sewer and possibly repair plumbing inside the home. Cleanup costs can be expensive.

Residents can help control the problem by properly disposing of fat, oil and grease. Everyone is part of the solution.

From Sinks. . . to Sewers

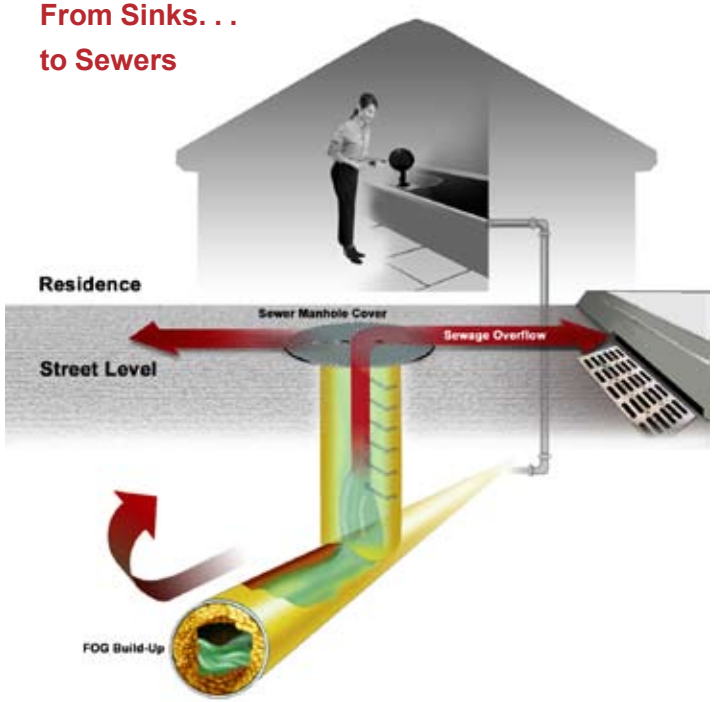


Illustration courtesy of Bureau of Sanitation of the City of Los Angeles

Sources of FOG

Fat, oil and grease are by-products of cooking found in:

- food scraps
- meat fats
- lard
- cooking oil
- butter, margarine or shortening

Negative Effects of FOG

- Attracts insects and rodents
- Property damage from sewage backups that is not always covered by insurance
- Sewage overflows in streets or rivers
- Expensive and unpleasant cleanup
- Higher operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments and residents