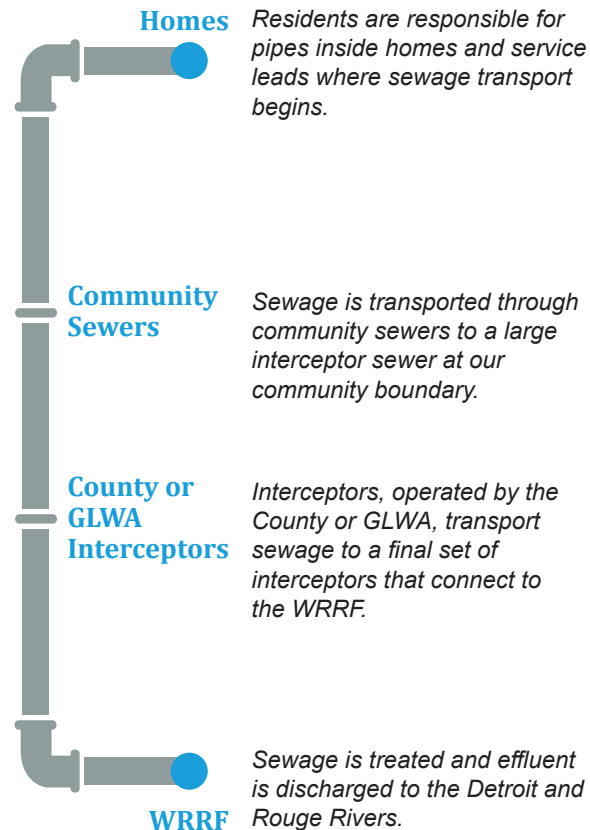




FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential and commercial sink drains. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. FOG can build up and eventually block the pipe and send sewage backward – out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains into homes.

Before reaching its ultimate destination of GLWA's WRRF in Detroit, sewage flows through a network of pipes that are operated by different entities.



Take your responsibility seriously. Keep our environment clean and avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping fats, oil and grease out of our sewers.



## PREVENT FATS, OIL AND GREASE FROM CLOGGING OUR SEWERS

Facing a kitchen full of dirty pots, pans and dishes is likely everyone's least favorite part of preparing a meal. As tempting as it is to dispose of that hamburger grease, cooking oil or leftover food scraps down the sink, this habit of convenience leads to problems in the pipes inside your home and our sewer system. Fats, oil and grease, known as FOG, cause sewer blockages that damage homes and pollute the environment.



GLWATER.ORG

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Wastewater from your home is just beginning its journey through our sewer system, carrying everything you send down the drain with it. Fats, oil and grease (FOG) stick to the inside of sewer pipes, building up over time in your home's plumbing and pipes further down the system. This build-up can eventually clog the entire pipe and cause sewer backups. Residents can help control the problem by properly disposing of FOG to keep sewers clear. One resident's habits can impact an entire neighborhood. Everyone is part of the solution.

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 home. A plumber will have to be hired to clean the sewer and possibly repair plumbing inside the home. Cleanup costs can be expensive.

While most southeast Michigan communities routinely clean FOG from sewers in commercial areas with restaurants, many have seen an increase in FOG-related clogs in residential areas in recent years. FOG build-up must be cleaned by our public works staff, increasing operation and maintenance costs for you and everyone else in our sewer system. Our staff is committed to cleaning and maintaining our sewers to keep our sewer system operating smoothly.

Wastewater collected from our community is transported to the Great Lakes Water Authority's (GLWA) Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) in Detroit that treats sewage from 77 communities.



*FOG build-up in sewer pipes (inset photo) requires local public works staff to go to the site and remove the blockage. The extra maintenance required to clean the sewer comes at a cost to all sewer system users.*



**Can it. Cool it. Throw it away.**

*Pour used cooking fats, oil and grease into a tin can or other container that won't melt, let it cool and then throw it away.*

## *Keep Drains Clear*

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into an empty can or jar. Do not pour fats, oil or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Wipe grease off cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces with a paper towel before washing. Do not rinse off with hot water.
- 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.

Fats, oil and grease are found in:

- food scraps
- meat fats
- lard
- cooking oil
- butter, margarine and shortening
- dressings and sauces
- dairy products