

## Grease Myths

It's OK to pour grease down the drain as long as...

### I use the garbage disposal

MYTH! The garbage disposal only grinds up items before passing them into your sewer pipes.

### I run hot water

MYTH! The grease will eventually cool and build up in the pipes.

### I chase it down with a dose of dish soap

MYTH! Soap breaks up grease, but the soap will eventually lose its effectiveness, causing the grease to solidify in the pipes.

## Results of FOG in Sewer Lines

When fats, oils and grease enter the sanitary sewer system, they stick to the insides of the sewer lines. Over time, the FOG buildup can block the entire line and cause sewer backups which may result in:

- Clogged drains or toilets
- Raw sewage backing up into your home
- Raw sewage overflowing into the environment
- Expensive cleanup, repair & replacement of damaged property
- Higher wastewater system operation & maintenance costs
- Unpleasant odors
- Potential public health risks



**CITY OF MIDLOTHIAN  
STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PROGRAM**

For more information on FOG, please contact:

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## Fat, Oil and Grease

### Sewer Smart Tips



**DO NOT Pour Fats, Oils or Grease (FOG) down the drain.**

### THE BAD NEWS

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) will clog your pipes and may cause a sewage backup into your home or a sewer spill in the street that goes down the storm drain and into our waterways.



## What is FOG?

FOG refers to fats, oils, and grease from food preparation and kitchen clean up. It is found in items such as:

- Meat fats
- Food scraps
- Lard/shortening
- Baking goods
- Butter/margarine
- Cooking oil
- Sauces
- Dairy products
- Salad dressings

## Why Do Clogs Occur?

When poured down the drain, FOG can build up in pipes. This can cause significant problems in the sanitary sewer system and at wastewater treatment plants, causing increased sewer rates.

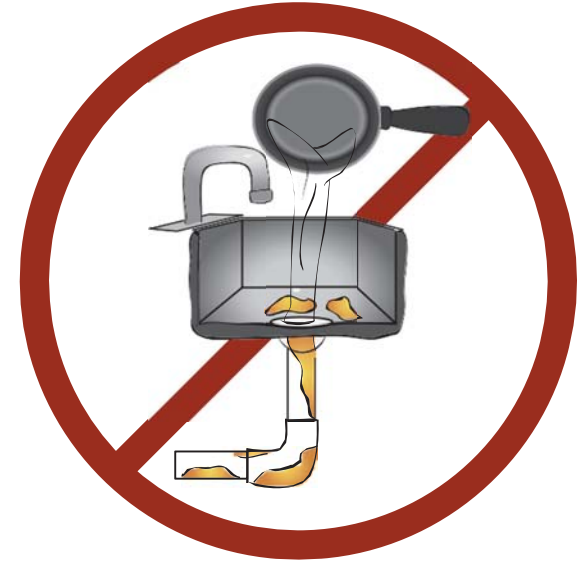
Clogs can be caused by improper disposal of fats, oils and grease. A partial or total blockage can cause floor drains, sinks and dishwashers to back up or not work properly.

To help prevent these clogs, dispose of FOG properly by following the simple tips in this brochure.

## DO



## DON'T



- Place cooled oil and grease into trash bins or covered collection containers
- Scrape food scraps into trash bins
- Manually wipe off all visible fats, oils, grease and food residue from dishes and cookware into trash bins
- Use a strainer in the sink to collect excess food particles
- Encourage neighbors to help keep fats, oils, and grease out of the sewer system
- Don't pour oil or grease down the drain
- Don't put food scraps down the drain
- Don't pour liquid foods (dairy products, syrups, batters and gravy, etc.) down the drain
- Don't run water over greasy dishes, pans or fryers
- Don't use chemicals to remove grease clogs; they can damage the piping system
- Don't rely on a garbage disposal to get rid of grease (**excess use of garbage disposals can also contribute to blocked pipes**)

**Residents make the biggest difference when it comes to reducing sewer backups and spills by adhering to Sewer Smart tips.**