A FACT SHEET FOR THE PROPER DISPOSAL OF

Fats, Oil & Grease

Now more than ever, we are making efforts to be "green" by doing simple things like reducing energy consumption and recycling items in our homes. Another easy and important way we can have a positive impact on the environment is by properly disposing of fats, oil & grease, also known as FOG.

Sewer Blockage Formation

The start of a blocked pipe begins when grease and solids collect on the top and sides of the pipe interior.

The build-up increases over time when grease and other debris are washed down the drain.

Excessive accumulation will restrict the flow of wastewater and can result in a sanitary sewer overflow.

FOG causes sewer blockages, leading to spills and overflows that are hazardous to our health; can result in damage to our homes; pollute our local waterways and groundwater; and harm fish and wildlife habitats. The good news is, community members like us have the power to easily prevent damage from FOG, contributing to a better quality of life here in Delaware.

What is FOG?

FOG includes animal fats, vegetable fats, and oils used to cook and prepare food. FOG is a solid or viscous substance, which will ultimately create an obstruction in the sewer system if not properly disposed. Restaurants deal with larger volumes of FOG than homeowners and renters, but we all need to do our part.

Where does FOG come from?

A byproduct of cooking, FOG comes from meat, fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the drain, FOG sticks to the insides of sewer pipes. Over time, FOG can build up, block entire pipes, and lead to serious problems.

What happens when FOG isn't properly disposed?

A wastewater sewer system works similarly to the circulatory system of the human body. Wastewater flows through pipes, is pumped at pump stations, and is cleaned by the wastewater plant.
FOG creates blockages within the sewer system that can lead to system failure as it builds up.
FOG in the sewer system can cause:

- Raw sewage overflowing into homes—clean up is expensive and unpleasant, and often must be paid for by homeowners
- Raw sewage overflowing into yards, streets and parks
- Exposure to disease-causing organisms
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments.

How should FOG be handled at home?

Many people think home garbage disposals keep grease out of the plumbing system—that is not true. Many detergents claim to dissolve grease, but they simply pass it down the sewer line, causing problems elsewhere. To dispose of FOG properly, follow these simple steps:

- ✓ Never pour FOG into your sink or toilet
- ✓ Pour FOG into a can—a coffee can works well
- ✓ Place a lid over the top
- ✓ Store it to be reused until full
- ✓ When the can is full, throw it in the trash
- ✓ When there is FOG residue in a pan or on a dish, wipe it with a paper towel before washing and throw that towel in the trash
- ✓ Also, place a strainer in the kitchen sink drain to catch food scraps and other solids, then empty the strainer into the trash

When disposing of FOG properly, we can be proud of the positive impact we are having on our community. And it's just another simple way we can help the environment.

TIPS FOR HANDLING FOG AT HOME

Wipe FOG residue from pans or dishes with a paper towel before washing.

Pour FOG into a container. When full, throw it in the trash.

Place a strainer in the sink drain to catch food scraps and other solids.

Don't pour FOG into your sink or toilet.

Don't let food scraps and solids go down the drain.