



# Fats, Oils, & Grease (FOG): Why it's a Problem

Grease is singled out for special attention because of its poor solubility in water and its tendency to separate from the liquid solution.



Large amounts of oil and grease in wastewater can cause problems in collection system pipes. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes, both on your property and in the streets. This decreases pipe capacity and, therefore, requires that piping systems be cleaned more often and/or replaced sooner than otherwise expected. Oil and grease also hamper effective treatment at the wastewater treatment plant.

Any type of grease, whether from businesses or residences can cause serious problems that may result in raw sewage backups and overflows in your homes or in the street. Sewer overflows pollute our rivers and streams, increase our risk to coming in contact with disease-causing organisms, and increase the costs of operation and maintenance of sewer lines and wastewater treatment.

## Residents can help reduce these risks by following these simple Do's & Don't's

- DO** Collect cooking oil & grease in containers and dispose of it properly.
- DO** Remove oil and grease from kitchen utensils, equipment, and food preparation areas with scraper/ towels/broom.
- DO** Keep grease out of wash water.
- DO** Place food scraps in a waste container for solid wastes.



- DON'T** Pour oil or grease down the sink drain or toilet.
- DON'T** Wash fryers/griddles, pots/pans, or plates until all oil and grease are removed.
- DON'T** Use hot water to rinse grease off surfaces.
- DON'T** Use the drain to dispose of food scraps, paper towels or feminine products.



**Remember: The drain is not a trash can!**

