



Why is FOG harmful to the environment?

Septic System Failures

As with sewer pipes, FOG can solidify and accumulate in septic tanks and septic lines causing blockages, backups, and overflows. Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release raw, untreated sewage that can be picked up by storm water and discharged into nearby water bodies. Malfunctioning septic systems can lead to expensive repairs.

Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Fats, oils, and grease can solidify and accumulate around the insides of underground sewer pipes. This can lead to blockages, backups, pipe bursts, and overflows. When sewer malfunctions occur, raw sewage directly enters the environment untreated and ultimately makes its way into streams, rivers, lakes, and oceans. This raw sewage carries excess nutrients as well as bacteria and other disease-causing pathogens that have a negative impact on human health, fish, and wildlife.

Storm water Runoff and Illicit Discharges

The purpose of storm water systems is to carry rainwater away from roads, parking lots, homes, and businesses as quickly as possible to prevent flooding. Storm water systems collect rainwater (and anything it picks up along the way) and discharges it directly into a local waterway, untreated. Therefore, anything poured down a storm drain or into a storm ditch or gutter will make its way into shared waters. In most cases, anything poured directly into a storm water collection system is considered an illicit discharge. This includes FOG, which can also accumulate in storm water pipes, causing blockages or reduced flow through a storm water system. This can lead to localized flooding and potential damage to homes and other structures.

FOG Best Management Practices (BMP)

This FOG BMP is designed to aid in preventing the introduction and accumulation of Fats, Oil, and Grease into the sanitary sewer system. The benefits of an effective FOG BMP program starts with you!

For more information, please visit
[Pretreatment - SRPMIC \(srpmic-nsn.gov\)](http://Pretreatment-SRPMIC.srpmic-nsn.gov)

Questions on FOG, please contact;
 The FOG Program at (480) 362-5600 or Email:
PWWaterResourcesPretreatment@srpmic-nsn.gov

**STOP
THE CLOG
SAY NO TO
FOG**

**FATS, OIL & GREASE
(FOG) Program
Best Management Practices**



The FOG Program

Public Works Department
 Water Resources Section
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What is FOG?

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) is a common term for the excess animal fats and cooking oils that are generated during cooking and in many food preparation steps.

Pouring FOG down the kitchen drain can seem harmless but it can cause real problems!



Common cooking FOG include:

- Cooking oil (olive oil, coconut oil, canola oil, vegetable oil, etc.)
- Salad dressings
- Bacon grease/meat fat
- Butter/shortening
- Gravy/sauces
- Dairy products

What Should You Do With Your Leftover FOG?

- Pour **cooled** grease into an empty disposable metal container or can before placing it in the trash.
- Scrape food scraps from dishes into the trash.
- Use rubber scrapers and paper towels to remove oil and grease from cookware.
- Avoid using a garbage disposal.
- Use baskets or strainers in drains to catch food scraps and then empty them in the trash.
- Remember... **NO FOG NO CLOGS.**



What's in it for you?

Removal of FOG blockages in your home's drain lines is expensive and messy. Your efforts will help to...

- Prevent disruptions to your sewer service or septic system.
- Prevent costly and inconvenient cleanups inside your home.
- Prevent damage to the environment.
- Prevent property damage and exposure to wastewater (pathogens and viruses).
- Help keep cost down.

Over time, FOG accumulates in the sewer system in much the same way that cholesterol accumulates in our arteries. As FOG builds in the pipes, wastewater becomes increasingly restricted. Suddenly, sometimes without warning, a sewer pipe backs up and overflows. The result is a home flooded with sewage or sewage overflowing into the community.

"Fats, Oil, and Grease dumped down your drain will congeal and block pipes, causing nasty sewer backups into your home. Avoid a huge mess, costly clean-up, and contamination to the environment and water supplies by properly disposing of your household FOG."

Disposable Wipes and Personal Items

Is it okay to flush wipes? **NO.**

Disposable wipes and other items should be properly disposed of in the trash, not the toilet. These wipes (thought they may state they are flushable or septic safe)



and other items do not break down in sewer or septic systems and can damage your home's internal plumbing as well as local wastewater collection systems. As a result, flushing these wipes can clog your toilet and/or create sewage backups into your home or your neighborhood.

Additionally, these wipes can cause significant damage to pipes, pumps, and other wastewater treatment equipment. Sewer backups can be a threat to public health and present a challenge to our water utilities by diverting resources away from the essential work being done to treat and manage the Community's wastewater.

Disinfecting wipes, baby wipes, and paper towels should **NEVER BE FLUSHED!**