

Fats, Oils & Grease



Fats, oils and grease often accumulate in plumbing and drainage systems, causing a high percentage of sewer system backups and overflows. The problem is receiving increased attention because of the public health threat and environmental effects of sewer system overflows. The state may fine municipalities as much as \$10,000, which towns pay in addition to cleanup expenses if grease contributes to a sewer overflow.

Tips for Residents

Many sewer backups occur between the home and the Town's sewer main. You can prevent costly and unsanitary overflows.

What To Do

- Disposable diapers and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system. Dispose of them properly. Place a wastebasket in the bathroom for disposing of solid wastes rather than flushing.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes or start a compost pile.
- Scrape excess grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage.
- Scrape utensils before washing.
- Promote the concept of 3 R's: reduce, reuse, and recycle.

What Not to Do

- Do not pour grease, fats and oils from cooking down the drain.
- Do not use the sewer as a means of disposing food scraps.
- Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- Do not throw disposable diapers and personal hygiene products into the toilet.

"Flushable" wipes are not so flushable and can clog pipes. Do not dispose of them in the toilet.