

CAN THE GREASE

As you might already know, Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) are common residues of cooking food. When poured down the drain, FOG can coat sewer pipes and accumulate, potentially causing clogged pipes that lead to sewage backups.

What happens if FOG waste is not disposed properly?

When FOG waste is not disposed of properly, it cools in the sewer system and can mix with sediment, food waste, “flushable” wipes, and other debris to create larger obstructions. Mixing detergents and hot water are not a solution for grease disposal; they only succeed in moving the problem downstream.

In addition to FOG waste, “flushable” wipes do not break down in the collection system and are just as much of an issue as other types of debris and should not be flushed down the toilet. Also, food waste disposed of into the sewer system using garbage disposals can also lead to sewage backups. If a sewer pipe is blocked it can lead to the overflow of sewage in homes. This can cause property damage, attract pests, and cause residents to be exposed to disease causing microorganisms. These problems are magnified in the public collection system where they become public health crises and cause costly damage to the collection system, which is passed on to the rate payer. Sanitary sewer overflows are also a threat to the environment and may result in large fines and enforcement from the EPA or other regulatory bodies.



How to dispose FOG waste?

- Scrape food scraps, and small amounts of cooled oil or grease into a compost or trash bin using a paper towel, newspaper, or other scrap paper.
- Larger amounts of oil or grease such as that used for cooking, should be poured into a durable glass or metal container, cooled, sealed, and then disposed of in a trash bin (there are specialized containers available).
- Prevent food scraps from going down the drain. Use drain screens to collect food waste and dispose of it in trash bins.
- Dishwashers are for sanitization purposes only. All food, oil and grease waste should be removed before placing dishes in the device.



Common Sources of FOG

- Cooking Oils
- Butter and butter substitutes
- Animal fats
- Fatty sauces, dressings, and liquids
- Dairy
- Food scraps

