


Best Management Practices

- ▶ Never pour oil or grease down sink drains or into toilets. 
- ▶ Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage. Oil can be mixed with an absorbent material like kitty litter before it is disposed of in the garbage.
- ▶ Scrape grease and food scraps from pots, pans, plates and cooking utensils into the garbage before washing.
- ▶ Do not use extremely hot water and detergents to dissolve grease, it only moves the problem down the line. Look for phosphate-free soaps.
- ▶ Limit use of the garbage disposal to dispose of food wastes.



Results of Sewer Backups:

- \$ Raw Sewage backing up into your home or your neighborhood
- \$ Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- \$ Expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by the homeowner
- \$ Increased operation and maintenance costs for the Sewer Department which could lead to higher sewer bills for the customer



City of Wenatchee Wastewater

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Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)



Inside of a sewer line with soap bubbles floating on the wastewater and FOG buildup on the top of pipe. The diameter of the pipe is being reduced by the FOG, creating a potential site for a blockage and sewer backup.



Fats, Oils, and Grease aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they are bad for the sewers too!

Where does the grease come from?

Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oils. It is naturally occurring in many foods. It is used in many recipes and is used as a medium for frying food. Grease is a normal byproduct of cooking.

Common household sources of FOG:

- Meats
- Lard, Shortening
- Cooking oil
- Butter and Margarine
- Milk, Cream, Ice Cream
- Cheese, Yogurt
- Baked goods
- Sauces
- Food Scraps



Buildup of FOG can occur anywhere in the City of Wenatchee's sewer system, from large sewer mains, lift station vaults, and the pipes that connect to your home. Some blockages can be removed, others are so problematic that it must be dug up, cut out, and then repair the sewer line. The results of a blocked sewer line are always unpleasant and expensive for the home owner.

Just like in our arteries, the problem with FOG is that it restricts the lines until it forms a solid plug. FOG is lighter than water and it does not mix in water, causing it to float on top of the wastewater in the sewer lines. The FOG may be in liquid form if it is washed down the drain with hot water, but as the water cools the FOG changes to a solid form which sticks to the sewer pipes. Once the sewer line has a restriction due to FOG, it can easily become completely blocked by collecting more FOG or other sewage debris.

The best way to deal with the FOG problem is to keep our sewer fat-free. Fats, Oils and Grease should never be poured down the drain – it should be collected, cooled, and disposed of in the garbage. Pots, pans, plates, and cooking utensils should be scraped or dry-wiped before they are washed.

To address this problem, the City of Wenatchee is working with both private residences and commercial business owners alike. Commercial FOG contributors have either a grease-trap or a grease interceptor installed to allow the FOG and solids to settle out and manually removed before their kitchen wastewater is discharged to the sewer system. The City of Wenatchee also has a preventative maintenance program to regularly clean the sewer mains.



These pictures are looking down into a sewer manhole. The picture on the left has grease buildup blocking the sewer channels. The picture on the right is after the grease has been removed and the channels are clear again.