

**Fats, Oils, and Greases aren't just bad for arteries and waistlines; they're bad for sewers too**

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.



**Help us keep your sewers clean and flowing!**

**Dispose of grease and fats with your trash— don't put them down the drain!**

**FAT FREE SEWERS**

**PUBLIC WORKS  
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**FAT  
FREE  
SEWERS**



**IMPORTANT NOTICE !**

Due to a high volume of grease observed in the sewer system in your neighborhood, the Town of Windsor is distributing this pamphlet to inform you on how to prevent future problems.

**If you have any questions, please contact  
the Public Works Department at**

**707-838-1006**

# How to Prevent Fats, Oils, and Greases from Damaging Your Home and Environment

## Where does the grease come from?

A byproduct of cooking, grease comes from meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, it can build up and block the entire pipe.

*Caution:* Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing systems. Products, such as detergents, that claim to dissolve grease may pass it down the line and cause problems elsewhere.



Photo courtesy of Heath Blackwell

*Town of Windsor Utility Maintenance Crew members working to fix a sewer overflow.*

## The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the home or business owner
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards and streets
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers

## What you can do to help:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available)
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids
- Speak with your friends and neighbors about how to keep grease out of sewers

## What restaurant and building owners need to know about grease traps or interceptors:

- For a grease trap or interceptor to work correctly, it must be properly
- Designed (sized and manufactured to handle the amount that is expected)
- Installed (Level, vented, etc.)
- Maintained (cleaned and serviced on a frequent basis).

Solids should never be put into grease traps or interceptors. Routine, often daily, maintenance of grease traps and interceptors is necessary.

