



WHAT DOES A GREASY, CLOGGED SEWER LOOK LIKE?

The pictures shown above are of two local sewers that, over time, have become clogged with grease. As you can imagine, these clogs can make it difficult for the sewers to operate properly, leading to messy back-ups in homes and expensive repairs for you and for city workers. The City of Decatur is asking you to help avoid these problems by properly disposing of fats, oils and grease.



WANT MORE INFORMATION? CONTACT
THE CITY OF DECATUR'S PUBLIC
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CITY OF DECATUR PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT
1 GARY K. ANDERSON PLAZA
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217-424-2747



CUT THROUGH THE FOG



Eliminating Fats, Oils and Grease
from city sewers
can protect your home and save
you money.

Did you know that last night's dinner can cost you thousands of dollars in home repairs and lead to nasty sewer backups? It could, if you didn't properly dispose of the fats, oils and grease (FOG) used to make it.

FOG comes from meat, fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, salad dressings, sauces and dairy products. When these and other similar items are regularly poured into sinks, garbage disposals, toilets or other household drains, they eventually cool, harden and stick to your sewer pipes, forming a blockage. Sewage can then overflow into your house or the homes of your neighbors through floor drains or toilets creating a nasty mess.

Sewer repairs and associated cleanup activities can cost homeowners thousands of dollars. The personal items that can be lost or damaged beyond repair when your sewer backs up can be priceless.

HOW YOU CAN PREVENT FOG DAMAGE

You can avoid expensive sewer backups, plumbing emergencies and repairs while helping to protect the local water supply by following a simple list of "do's and don'ts" when disposing of fats, oils and grease:



DO:

DO pour fats, oils or grease into a can until they cool. Coffee cans work well. The can may be stored for reuse until full when it can be thrown in the trash.

DO wipe pans or dishes that contain fats, oil or grease with a paper towel before washing and throw the used paper towel in the trash.

DO place a strainer in the kitchen sink drain to catch food scraps and other solids and regularly empty the strainer into the trash.

DON'T:

DON'T pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings or sauces into the sink or toilet.

DON'T run water over dishes, pans, fryers or griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

DON'T use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or oily dish ware. When you wash them, the grease will end up in the sewer.

DON'T use a garbage disposal or food grinder on fatty or greasy food. Grinding food before rinsing it down the drain does not remove the fats, oils or grease, it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps (salads, etc) can plug sewer lines.

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