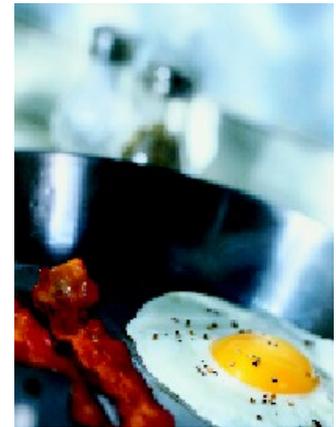




Let's Keep Grease Out of Our System

January, 2016

Grease is the leading cause of wastewater overflows. You can help protect the environment, prevent clogged pipes, and reduce costs by properly disposing of grease. This is true whether you are a private homeowner, someone who rents an apartment or home, or even if you own a food service establishment. This problem affects all Galvestonians, and YOU can do something about it!



If you have any questions or would like to learn more, please call 409-797-3630

When grease goes down the drain, sewer lines back up



Over time, kitchen grease and other fats, oils, and greases that are poured down the sink or garbage disposal will enter the sewer system and potentially clog pipes as the grease hardens. These blockages can send wastewater backwards and force it out of manholes – onto our streets and into our waterways – or they can lead to plumbing backups on your, or a neighbor's, private property. These foul-smelling overflows can damage property and cause serious environmental problems.

Protecting the environment is everyone's responsibility

The City of Galveston has a strong commitment to protect public health and the environment. It is the city's responsibility to keep miles of sewer pipe properly maintained and flowing free of obstructions. This ensures that wastewater can be delivered to treatment plants, cleaned up, and then released back into our local waterways. Entirely eliminating sewer spills in a system the size of ours is a difficult, but necessary goal of the city.

City personnel work to maintain the sewer system. When a spill occurs, we respond quickly to clean it up. Grease blockages cause more than half of all spills and overflows. Even the fastest response times and multiple pipe cleanings will not eliminate the problem. Prevent overflows by **NOT POURING GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN!**



Businesses can help limit grease build-up. The city's Oil & Grease Policy regulates how businesses dispose of fats, oils and grease. City personnel regularly visit restaurants and food preparation establishments to evaluate their grease control measures.

An Inside View of Pipe Blockage



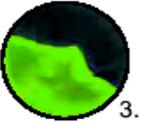
1.

An unobstructed pipe allows waste water to flow freely.



2.

A pipe partially obstructed with grease build up hampers the flow of waste water.



3.

A large build up of grease in pipes can cause blockage. This often results in a sewer line backup, possibly inside your home or property, which can leave you with a foul-smelling, and possibly expensive, clean-up job.

Protecting the Environment From Your Home or Business

Household kitchen drains are a big source of fats, oils, and greases. Grease overflows from the general public are an ongoing challenge throughout our city. Remember that grease blockages can also cause wastewater to overflow inside your home and damage your property.

Proper Methods to Dispose of Oil and Grease in Your Home:

- Use an old coffee can or jar as your Grease Container.
- Pour greasy or oily food waste into the container, **not down the drain or garbage disposal**
- Allow fats to cool in the container before taking it to the recycling center or throwing it in the trash.



Proper Methods to Dispose of Oil and Grease in Restaurants and Food Service Establishments:



- Install a grease trap of the appropriate size. Make sure it is manufactured to handle the amount of oil or grease produced at your business.
- Maintain your grease trap regularly by an approved grease and oil removal company.
- Address any questions to the Pre-Treatment group supervisor at 409-797-3784.