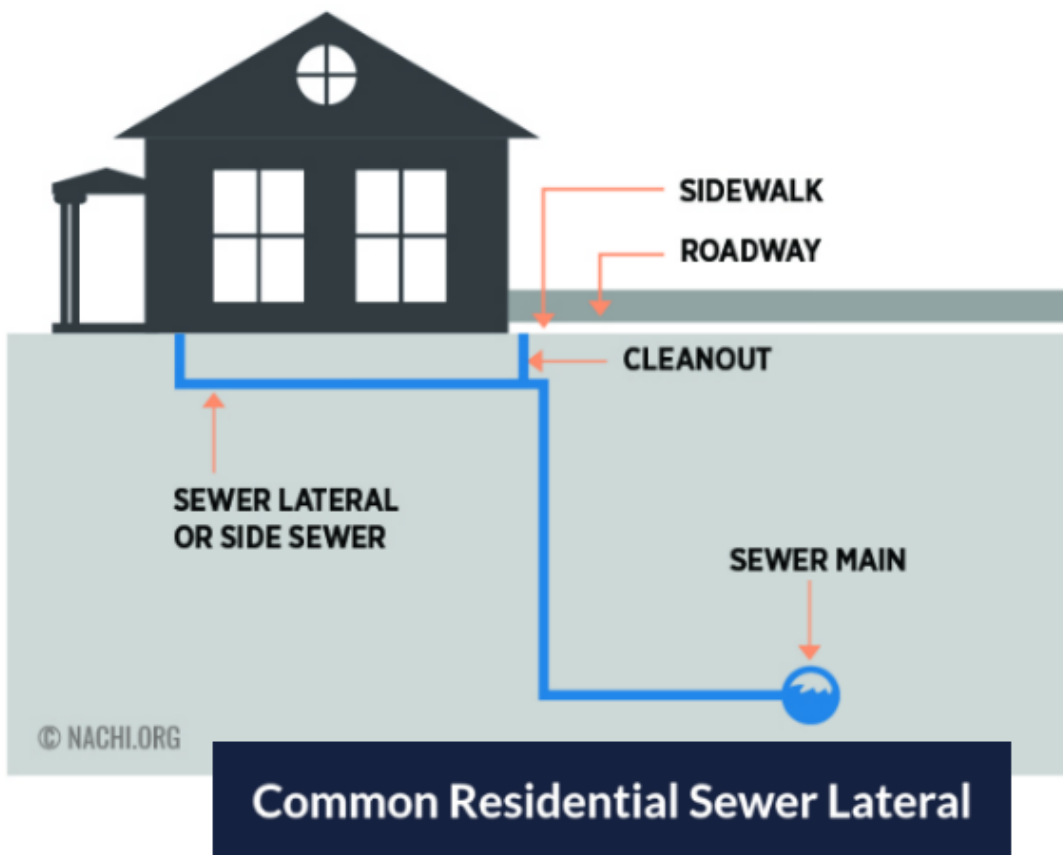


Fats, Oils & Grease (FOG) Program

WHAT IS FOG?

FOG MYTHS

RESIDENTIAL



Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) enter the sanitary sewer through sinks, floor drains, dishwashers, and other kitchen equipment plumbed to the sanitary sewer. FOG and solid food waste entering your drains may cause blockages in either your plumbing or the sanitary sewer lines by building up along the walls of the pipes. This can lead to a sanitary sewer overflow inside your home, business, adjacent buildings, streets, or the environment. These spills are a safety hazard that can endanger public health.

What is FOG?

It may seem harmless to pour and scrape your fats, oils, and grease (FOG) down the kitchen drain, but it causes real trouble for your pipes, the sewer – and yourself! Common cooking FOG include:

- Any type of cooking oil (such as extra virgin olive oil, coconut oil, canola oil, vegetable oil, etc)
- Salad dressings
- Bacon grease
- Meat fat
- Shortening
- Butter
- Sauces
- Dairy products



Residential: Keep Kitchen Drains Fat-Free

The fats, oil and grease (FOG) found in common cooking items and ingredients can cause buildups inside your house plumbing, sewer lateral, and the larger sewer mains in the street. When these items are disposed of by pouring into the kitchen sink or other drain, FOG will stick to the inside of the pipes. Over time deposits will build up, eventually clogging the sewer line. If the drain lines in your house clog, it can be expensive and messy to have the grease blockage removed. FOG in the sewer line also increases the costs to maintain the City's sewers, which increase sewer rates for all customers. It's easy to put your kitchen sink on a fat free diet! To reduce grease-related problems at home:

1. If oils or grease remain in the pan after cooking: Let it cool to a safe temperature and then pour or transfer it to a sealed, disposable container and place it in the trash. Never pour hot grease or oil into the trash or sink!
2. Remove as much oil and grease from pots, pans and plates prior to washing them in the sink or putting in the dishwasher.
3. If you wash dishes by hand, cold water will congeal FOG, making it less likely to build up in your home's plumbing and sewer lateral.
4. Dispose of old cosmetics, suntan lotions and other oily or greasy personal products properly, in the trash.
5. Ignoring these easy steps could result in a grease blockage in your plumbing system, which can be expensive to remedy. Backed up or overflowing sinks and toilets are a possible result- which is messy, unsanitary, and could damage your home.

Common FOG Myths

Running Hot Tap Water

Running hot tap water down the drain will not help grease float through the sewer pipe because the water will eventually cool as it flows through the pipe and the grease will become solid again.

Room Temperature Oils

If oils that remain liquid at room temperature (such as extra virgin olive oil or toasted nut oils) are disposed down the drain, they will contribute to FOG buildup in sewer pipes, where temperatures can dip low enough to cause solidification of these oils.

Soaps and Detergents

The use of soaps and detergents that claim to dissolve grease will not protect against grease buildup. Soaps may initially break up grease, but as it travels further downstream it will eventually lose this ability and grease will begin to accumulate in your home's plumbing and sewer laterals.

Garbage disposals

Running the garbage disposal will do nothing to protect your drain lines from accumulating grease. Garbage disposals only shred leftover fats into smaller pieces; they do not get rid of the fats that create grease.

The best solution is always prevention, so keep FOG out of your pipes and the sewer system to avoid the inconvenience of having to call a drain cleaning service.

If the sanitary sewer line from your home does not seem to be working properly, you may call the City Services Department at 559-562-7102 extension 4.

On responding to a service call our sewer crew will check to make certain that the main sewer line in the street is operating properly. This line is not usually the cause of most problems, but if it is, our crews can quickly remove any obstruction.

If the main sewer is operating properly, the homeowner will be notified that the problem lies within their private property and that a plumbing contractor or private sewer service company should be called as City crews cannot work on the homeowner's private property.

If the homeowner decides to hire a private sewer service or plumber, they must inform the City of any blockage that is cleared by the hired service to ensure that the blockage does not create a problem in the sewer main. The number to call during regular working hours, as well as after hours/weekends/holidays is 559-562-7102 extension 4.

