

# Fats, Oils & Grease Clog <sup>the</sup> Sewer

Sewage backups and overflows are typically the result of grease buildup which can cause property damage, environmental problems and other health hazards. Fats, oil and grease can enter into the sewer system from commercial food establishments and private residents.

Most grease is a byproduct of cooking and is usually found in things as such:

- Food scraps
- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Butter and margarine
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products



All too often fats, oil and grease are washed into the plumbing system and stick to the inside of both private and public sewer pipes. Over time the oil and grease build up and eventually blocks the entire pipe causing sewer backup and overflow.

#### **Cost to You:**

As sewer pipes backup, sewage and food particles attract insects and other vermin that may pose potential health risks.

Property damage can result from sewage backup leading to costly clean up and repairs.

#### **Cost to the Environment:**

Clogged sewers can lead to overflow. As sewage overflow into the streets, it enters the storm drain system where it is carried into the local waterways and eventually drinking water.

#### **Cost to the City of Lancaster:**

Increase sewage stoppage and overflow leads to excessive and costly maintenance and could result in severe fines from State and Federal agencies. These added cost result in an increase to the customer.

#### **Proper Disposal Methods:**

- Scrape grease from food scraps from plates, pots and pans into trash can for disposal.
- Do not put grease and scraps down garbage disposal.
- Pour grease into a container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Do not pour grease into kitchen sinks, floor drain or toilets.
- Be cautious of chemicals and additives that claim to dissolve grease. Some simply pass grease down to pipes where it can clog lines further down stream.

**Report sewer problems to the City of Lancaster Water & Wastewater Division at  
Monday to Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at 972-218-2325 or  
After hours & weekends at 972-227-2311**