



Household Grease and Stormwater Pollution Prevention



City of Fort Lauderdale
Environmental Services Division
954-828-8000/www.fortlauderdale.gov




Household Grease

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) such as meat fats, dairy products, food scraps, cooking oils, sauces, dressings, sandwich spreads, gravies, marinades, dairy products, shortening, lard, butter and margarine are a main cause of sewer line backups and breaks. Raw sewage can overflow into your home, a neighbor's home, streets, parks, etc. It can also flow into a storm drain, which leads to local waterways. Raw sewage may contain bacteria, viruses and polluted materials that can cause health hazards and harm the aquatic environment. Also, sewer line backups and breaks are expensive to repair and unpleasant to clean up. The following guidelines will assist you with managing household FOG and protecting the environment, as well as the City's infrastructure.

- ◆ Never pour fats, oils, grease, food scraps or other cooking or household liquids down a drain or into a toilet.
- ◆ Pour FOG into a heat resistant and sturdy non-recyclable container. Once the container is full and has cooled down, throw it out in the garbage.
- ◆ Scrape grease and food scraps from dishes, pots, utensils, etc. into the trash before washing or putting them in the dishwasher. Dishwashers do not get rid of grease.
- ◆ Use sink strainer baskets to catch food and other waste and empty it into the garbage.
- ◆ Never rinse or flush FOG down the drain with hot water and/or dish soap. It does not dissolve grease and may push it further into your sewer lines.
- ◆ Never pour FOG into a garbage disposal. It is designed to shred solid materials into smaller pieces. It does not dissolve grease.

Report illegal dumping into the storm drain or sanitary sewer system, clogged storm drains, or overflowing manholes by calling the 24-hour Customer Service Center at 954-828-8000.

If you would like this document in an alternate format (large print, audio tape), please call 954-828-4746 or e-mail webmaster@fortlauderdale.gov.

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