

# AVOID COSTLY CLOGS

## PREVENT FATS, OIL AND GREASE FROM CLOGGING OUR SEWERS

### FROM YOUR HOME TO OUR SEWER SYSTEM

About to pour that turkey fat down your kitchen sink drain? Don't do it!

As tempting as it is to dispose of cooking oil or leftover food scraps down the sink, this leads to problems in the pipes inside your home and in our sewer system. Fats, oil and grease, known as FOG, cause sewer blockages that damage homes, waste money and pollute the environment.

### SAVE MONEY, PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT

Everything you put down your kitchen drain makes its way to the sewer system. Sewage flows through a network of pipes before reaching its ultimate destination, the Great Lakes Water Authority's Water Resources Recovery Facility (WRRF).

FOG sticks to the inside of sewer pipes, building up until it eventually clogs them.



### KEEP DRAINS CLEAR

1. Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into an empty can or jar. Do not pour fats, oil or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
2. Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
3. Wipe grease off cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces with a paper towel before washing. Do not rinse off with hot water.
4. Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material, such as cat litter or coffee grounds in resealable container before throwing it in the trash.
5. Keep drains clean by pouring  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup baking soda down the drain, followed by  $\frac{1}{2}$  cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.



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### FOG FACTS

**T**he problem isn't just gross; it's also a financial drain. When sewer pipes on private property back up, the homeowner is responsible for the cleanup. Plumbing services and cleanup costs can be expensive.

FOG build-up in sewer pipes farther down the system must be cleaned by your community's public works staff, increasing operation and maintenance costs for you and everyone else in our sewer system.

Fats, oil and grease, combine with "flushable" wipes and other materials in the sewer system, creating blockages known as fatbergs. These fatbergs can wreak havoc in sewer systems across the region, clogging sewer pipes and burning up expensive pump motors, needed to move sewage to the Water Resources Recovery Facility.

In 2018, workers in Macomb County removed a 19-ton, 100-foot fatberg, a deposit of fat and grease, mixed with wipes. The process cost about \$100,000. Across the country, FOG clogs cost the United States an extra \$25 billion tax dollars a year.



### FATS, OIL AND GREASE ARE FOUND IN:

- Food scraps
- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Butter, margarine and shortening
- Dressings and sauces
- Dairy products

