Hazards of Fats, Oils, Grease and Grit in Your Pipes

Over time, fats, oils, grease and grit (FOGG) from everyday cooking can clog the pipes in your home and in the public sewer system. FOGG and food particles poured down the sink solidify in your pipes, eventually causing blockages that cause sanitary sewer overflows. Overflows can create serious public health hazards, damage property, cause odor issues and often require expensive repairs.

Don't let this happen to your pipes!

City of Henderson
Department of Utility Service
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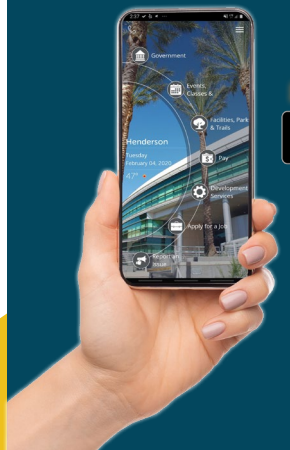

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Fats, Oils, Grease and Grit in Residential Pipes

Where does FOGG come from?

Grit in your kitchen pipes usually comes from eggshells and coffee grounds. Traditionally, grease is thought of as bacon grease and oil used for frying, but fats, oils and grease can be found in other food items that may surprise you:

Dairy products

Gravy and sauces

Mayonnaise

Salad dressing

Baked goods

Frosting

Milk and cream

Lard and shortening

Butter and margarine

Fryer oil

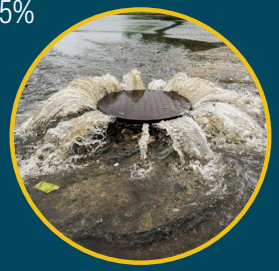
Prevent FOGG from entering the drain

Pour cooking oils and grease into a small container with absorbent material, such as a paper towel or coffee grounds, and dispose of it in the trash.

Scrape food from dishes into the trash and wipe down greasy plates, pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.

Limit the use of your garbage disposal. Prevent food from entering your sewer by covering your kitchen sink drain with a strainer.

Why should I care about FOGG?



The EPA estimates that 65% of all sewer spills are caused by fats, oils and grease. The majority of all FOG related sewer backups and spills originate in residential areas.

Avoid costly repairs

Clogged pipes can happen anywhere in the system – on your property or in the City's sewer mains. Depending on where the clog is located, the resident or property owner may be responsible for the cost of cleaning or repairing the line, as well as the cost of damages caused by a backup into the home or building.

Garbage disposals make things worse

Garbage disposals grind up food into smaller particles which can easily bind with fats, oils and grease to clog pipes.