



FOG build-up in sewer pipes (shown below) is costly to clean requiring local public works staff to go to the site and remove the blockage (shown above).

## Keep Drains Clear

### Follow These Tips:

- Train all employees to properly handle used fat, oil and grease.
- Post “No Grease” signs over sink and floor drains.
- Dispose of all fat, oil and grease in an appropriate recycling bin.
- Keep drains clean by using vinegar and warm water or commercial products to dissolve grease. Be cautious of chemicals and additives that claim to dissolve grease. Some additives simply push the grease farther down the pipe.
- Install a grease interceptor, grease trap, or oil/water separator that is sized to handle the grease or oil produced at your business.
- Have an approved grease and oil removal company regularly maintain your grease interceptor or oil/water separator. Keep records of when your equipment is cleaned.

### Do Not:

- Pour fat, oil or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
- Use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces.



Cleaning FOG build-up from sewers increases maintenance costs for everyone in the sewer system. FOG can create sewer overflows. Keep our environment clean and avoid unnecessary maintenance costs by keeping fat, oil and grease out of our sewers.

Published through a collaborative effort of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and its customer communities.

Businesses

**FOG Prevention**  
protect our environment and  
keep drains clear of Fat, Oil  
and Grease



## FOG Prevention Protects the Environment

Fat, oil and grease in sewer pipes, referred to as FOG, create pollution problems in many communities. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential and commercial sink drains. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. FOG can build up and eventually block the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes can send sewage backward – out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains in homes. These sewage overflows pollute the environment.

### Impact of FOG

Preventing sewer overflows from FOG blockages saves communities money and protects the environment. When overflows occur, local public works staff need to go to the site and clean the grease build-up out of the sewer using a vactor truck. Depending on the severity of the blockage, these cleanups can cost taxpayers or the FOG contributor thousands of dollars. For example, during the holiday season Rochester Hills diverted a potential sewage backup from entering into one of the City's malls by cleaning a major FOG blockage. Reported by an observant citizen who saw a manhole cover being pushed up, the blockage was so severe that the sewer pipe had to be cleaned from both sides of the blockage. Although the disaster was avoided, the necessary maintenance was performed at an increased cost to the city.

Restaurant owners and commercial businesses can help control the problem by properly disposing of fat, oil and grease. Everyone is part of the solution.

# FOG affects everyone

### Sources of FOG

Fat, oil and grease are by-products of cooking found in:

- food scraps
- meat fats
- lard
- cooking oil
- butter, margarine or shortening

### Negative Effects of FOG

- Attracts insects and rodents
- Property damage from sewage backups
- Sewage overflows in streets or rivers
- Expensive and unpleasant cleanup
- Higher operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments and business owners

From Sinks...  
to Sewers

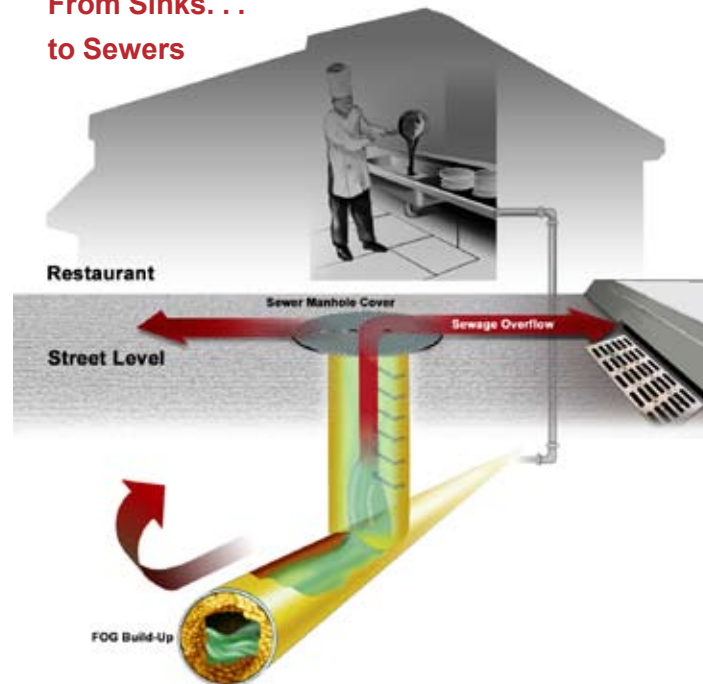


Illustration courtesy of Bureau of Sanitation of the City of Los Angeles