



### **Here's how you can help prevent sewer backups:**

Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets or garbage disposals.

Pour grease into a covered disposable container and put it into the trash.

### **COOL IT - CAN IT - TRASH IT**

Soak up remaining fats, oils and grease with paper towels and dispose with your trash.

Before you wash dishes, scrape meats and food with fat and grease into the trash.

Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain basket or strainer into the trash.

Only use garbage disposals for fruits, vegetables, and organic waste.

### **About Us**

Wyoming Association of Rural Water Systems (WARWS) is a member driven, non-profit Association, affiliated with National Rural Water Association (NRWA). WARWS, NRWA and its state affiliates comprise the largest utility membership organization in the nation representing nearly 31,000 small and rural water and wastewater systems that serve over 1/3 of all Americans.

### **Our Mission**

*"To provide the assistance necessary to meet the needs of our membership and to ensure the protection of Wyoming's water - our most precious resource."*

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**Wyoming  
Association  
of Rural  
Water  
Systems**

*Keeping Fats, Oils  
and Grease out of  
the Sewer*



## Fats, Oils and Grease Cause Sanitary Sewer Overflows

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are one of the leading causes of sewer overflows. There are simple steps which residents can take to prevent FOG from adversely affecting their homes and communities. The easiest way to solve grease problems and prevent blockages is to keep FOG out of the sewer system.

FOG represents one of the largest problems for sewer utilities and their customers. Blockages due to coagulated grease in pipes are thought to be the leading cause of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs). SSOs are backups in either the public sewer or residential plumbing.

Although often unintentional, the injection of FOG into the sewer system poses a significant risk to household plumbing and public sewer systems.

Garbage disposals, or food grinders, can be useful appliances when used properly. The grinding of raw vegetables and certain other discarded food products not cooked with grease, butter or oils are potentially useful when transported to the sewer treatment plant as they can be recycled in an environmentally useful manner. Conversely, the grinding of meat products, dairy products or other cooked foods allows grease to be temporarily ground and introduced into the sewer system. FOG will accumulate and eventually form blockages, often causing SSOs.



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

- **Meat fats**
- **Lard**
- **Cooking oil**
- **Butter and margarine**
- **Baked goods**
- **Sauces**
- **Dairy products**

## Grease Myths 101:

**Myth 1:** "I can dissolve grease in my pipes with hot water."

**FALSE!** Hot water gives the illusion of dissolving grease. It really just pushes the grease further down the drain, where it quickly cools and sticks inside the pipe.

**Myth 2:** "I don't create enough grease to clog pipes."

**FALSE!** Once deposited inside a pipe, grease does not go away. Over time, any household can put enough grease down a drain to clog its pipes. Even your "little bit" of grease builds up over time. Combined with the "little bit" that other people put down the drain, it can soon be a problem for everyone!

**Myth 3:** "I can flush grease down my toilet."

**FALSE!** Flushing grease down the toilet just creates build-up in the toilet drain.

**Myth 4:** "It doesn't matter what I do because I am in an apartment complex with lots of other kitchens."

**FALSE!** Apartments are especially vulnerable to grease clogs because there are so many kitchens draining into the sewer system at one point. Every apartment needs to keep grease out of the drain."

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