

Approximately 80% of grease related sewer blockages and overflows occur in residential areas.

The following items should never be put down a drain

- › FATS, OILS, and GREASE (FOG)
- › FAT and SKIN TRIMMED from MEAT, POULTRY, and FISH
- › MEAT, POULTRY, FISH BONES
- › CHEESES, CURDS and DIPS
- › MILK, CREAM, and other DAIRY
- › PLANT BASED LIQUIDS (SOY MILK, ALMOND MILK, etc.)
- › SALAD DRESSING, MAYONNAISE, CONDIMENTS
- › COOKING OIL, SHORTENING and LARD
- › NUTS and NUT BUTTERS
- › BROTH, FAT and GRAVY
- › EGG SHELLS, FRUIT PITS
- › ENGINE OILS and CLEANERS

GREASE BLOCKAGE PREVENTION

Preventing grease-related sewer blockages and overflows benefits your home, your pocketbook and the environment.

- › Fat's, Oil's & Grease (FOG) should NEVER be poured down the sink. Sink drains and garbage disposals are not designed to properly handle these materials.
- › Use sink strainers to catch food item, then empty the strainer into the trash.
- › Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans, and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.
- › Pour FOG after it has cooled into a container, such as an empty glass jar or coffee can. Once the container is full, secure the lid and place it into the trash.
- › Don't empty waste from a deep fryer down the drain. Allow the used oil to cool to room temperature and pour it into an empty bottle and put into the trash.

CONSEQUENCES OF FOG

› FOG coats pipelines similar to the way fatty foods clog human arteries. The grease clings to the inside of the pipe, eventually building up and causing a complete blockage.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU HAVE A SEWER BACK UP OR OVERFLOW:

- 1) Immediately call the Public Utilities Dept. Emergency # (203) 797-4615
OR
Main Office # (203) 797-4637
- 2) If possible remove any items from the area that could become damaged from the overflow.
- 3) Do not turn on the water or flush the toilet until the overflow has been cleared.

Please Note: Ordinance #16-5 "All sewer connections shall be laid not less than 24 inches above cellar bottoms, and the laying and maintaining of all cellar drains shall be at the owner's risk of flooding from the main sewers."

Homeowners are urged to plug or seal any existing basement floor drains that are connected to the City sewer.



Public Utilities
Department
(203)797-4637

FATS
OILS
GREASE
(F.O.G.)

What not to
put down your
sewer drain!

City of Danbury Public Utilities Dept
(203) 797-4637

FATS

Fats typically come from meat and dairy sources but can also come from plant sources, such as nut butters. It is usually in solid form at room temperature and can be thrown directly into the trash. Placing these food in the garbage disposal only reduces the size of the food, not the likelihood of creating a clog. If you're not sure if something has fat in it, check the nutrition label.

EXAMPLES OF FATS

Meat Trimmings
Uncooked Poultry Skin
Cheeses
Ice Cream
Peanut Butter
Butter
Shortening / Lard

OILS

Oil comes from plant sources such as vegetable oil, canola oil, olive oil, corn oil, etc. It may be used as a topping on food, such as salads or sandwiches or used to cook food, such as deep frying. It remains liquid at room temperature. Used oil should be poured into a can or jar before disposal. If it is poured down the drain, oil can coat pipes and get into any nooks and crannies, creating a slick surface that makes it easier for fats and grease to stick to it.

EXAMPLES OF OILS

Salad Dressing
Cooking Oils: Vegetable Oil,
Canola Oil, Olive Oil, Corn Oil
Condiments
Sauces

GREASE

Grease occurs when fats from food melt under heat such as frying, boiling and baking, etc. Grease is deceptive because it is a liquid after cooking, but eventually cools into a solid. Pouring it down the drain means that at some point it will cool on the pipes in the collection system, harden, and then start a clog.

EXAMPLES OF GREASE

Cooked/Melted Fat from Meat,
Bacon, Sausage, Duck, etc.
Skin from Boiled Poultry
Gravy
Mayonnaise

FAQ's

Q: Who is responsible for the clean-up of an overflow?

A: If the blockage is in the service lateral from your home the clean up is your responsibility. If the blockage is in the sewer main the City is responsible.

Q: What about restaurants? They generate more FOG than residents do.

A: True, restaurants typically generate more FOG than residents. However, they must comply with regulations that require grease traps and other methods of disposing of grease.

Q: What happens to the FOG from restaurants?

A: FOG is pumped from grease traps into a tanker truck and delivered directly to a disposal facility at the sewage treatment plant. This bypasses the sewer piping preventing clogs.

Q: If my sewer lateral is clogged what do I do?

A: You may contact a company to clean the inside of your sewer lateral pipe. The Public Utilities Department can provide you with a list of contractors in the area.

Q: If I have a back up into my home how do I clean it up?

A: There are companies who specialize in cleaning and sanitizing after you have experienced a back up. The Public Utilities Department can provide you with a list of companies.