

FOG Q&A

Q. What are businesses doing to prevent FOG in the sewer system?

A. FOG is discharged not only by residents but also by businesses and food service facilities. Food service facilities are required to install and maintain grease interceptors and have a management plan in place to prevent FOG discharge. Other industrial businesses are regulated and inspected regularly to ensure minimal FOG discharge. Working together we can help prevent sewer clogs and sanitary sewer overflows, which will help to protect our environment.

Q. Isn't throwing grease into the landfill just creating a different problem?

A. FOG effectively breaks down under landfill conditions over time. Fats, oils and grease can cause significant environmental problems when they enter the wastewater system.

Remember

- Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the sewer system.
- Hot water and other products such as soap that claim to dissolve grease only pass it down the line causing blockages and overflows.

Johnson County Wastewater is responsible for the safe collection, transportation and treatment of wastewater generated by residential, industrial and commercial customers.

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11811 South Sunset Dr., Suite 2500
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JOHNSON COUNTY KANSAS Wastewater



Watch for FOG Avoid the clog

The hazards of Fats, Oils and Grease



Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) are used in food processing and in the preparation of meals. Kitchen waste containing these materials, as well as water that has been used to wash cooking equipment, contain waste FOG. When waste FOG is poured down the sink, grease sticks to the inside of sewer pipes where it cools and solidifies, congealing and building up over time, restricting or clogging wastewater flow.

As these fatbergs begin to clog the sewer lines, layer upon layer of other non-disposable items (like wet wipes) that are in the sewer pipes collect with the fat, resulting in sewer blockages and overflows that can cause health hazards by harboring dangerous bacteria, including *Listeria* and *E.coli*. Fatbergs may also cause expensive property damage and threaten the environment.

According to Newsweek, these gross grease giants are threatening cities. They can grow to 6 feet tall, more than 800 feet long and weigh as much as four humpback whales!

Where does grease come from?

Most of us know that grease is a product of cooking. Grease is found in:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Food scraps
- Baked goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products



What You Can Do To Help?

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system.

- Never pour grease or oil down any drain, including your toilet.
- Instead, pour grease into a can or jar that can be thrown away when cooled.
- Use disposable towels to wipe fats, oils and grease from pots, pans and dishware prior to dishwashing.
- Dispose of food waste directly into the trash. Scrape food scraps from pans and plates into the trash for disposal.
- Put screens/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash.
- Speak with your family, friends and neighbors about keeping grease out of the sewers.
- Recycle used or unused cooking oil, like turkey fryer oil, at the Johnson County Household Hazardous Waste Facility, located at 5901 Jim Bills Road, Mission, KS 66203 just off Foxridge Drive and Lamar and within the gates of the Nelson Wastewater Treatment Plant.



SCRAPE
grease solids
directly into a
lined trash can.



POUR
cooled grease
into a sealable
container.



WIPE
remaining grease
and debris with a
paper towel.

The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing into your or your neighbor's home.
- Raw sewage spills into streets, buildings, parks, yards and streams.
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for Johnson County Wastewater, which can lead to higher sewer bills for customers.
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that must be paid for by the home or business owner.
- Potential health hazards, home damage, and environmental threats caused by overflows.

