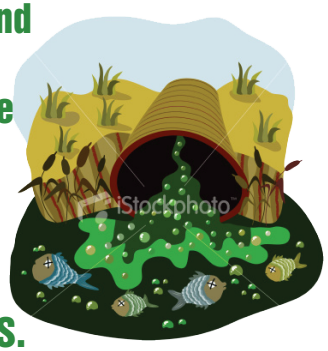
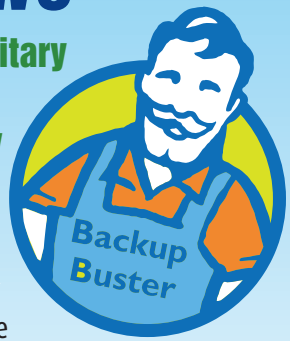
THE BAD NEWS

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) will clog your pipes and may cause a sewage backup into your home or a sewer spill in the street that goes down the storm drain and into the Bay or other waterways. FOG CLOGS.



THE GOOD NEWS

Sewer backups and sanitary sewer overflows are preventable. Just follow these Sewer Smart Tips from Backup Buster:



1. Do not pour fats, oils and grease down the drain. Dispose of them properly.
2. Put a backflow device on your sewer cleanout if you are at risk of a sewer backflow.
3. Plant appropriate trees - but don't plant them over your sewer lateral.
4. Don't let your toilet turn on you! Be prepared for disaster.
5. Have a plan to maintain your sewer system annually.

FOG CLOGS

SEWER SMART FACTS

1. US EPA shows that 65% of all sewer spills are FOG-related.
2. The majority of FOG-related sewer backups and spills originate in residential areas.
3. Clogged sewer pipes can cost you lots of money and inconvenience if your sewer system backs up on your property.

Grease Drop-off Centers

Please check with your local sewer service provider, sanitary district or public works department for proper disposal techniques. Drop off locations in the greater Bay Area are listed on the Sewer Smart website.

Visit sewersmart.org for a step-by-step guide to sewer maintenance in your home.

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DON'T LET YOUR SEWER TURN ON YOU OR YOUR NEIGHBORS

BACKUP BUSTER SAYS:

"DO NOT Pour Fats, Oils or Grease(FOG) down the drain."

FOG Q & A

Q. **What is FOG?**

A. Fats, oils and grease from food preparation, packaged foods and food scraps.

Q. **Where does it come from?**

A. Meat fats and juices, lard, cooking oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baking goods, olive oil, dressing, sauces and dairy products.

Q. **Why shouldn't fats, oils and grease go down the drain?**

A. Fats, oils and grease stick to the insides of sewer pipes when washed down the kitchen plumbing system. This solidifies and can block pipes. Clogged pipes cause sewer backups and sewage spills on residential property and on the street.

Q. **How does it affect me?**

A. Improper FOG disposal leads to costly sewer backups and overflows, increased sewer rates, public health and environmental hazards as it washes down storm drains and into bays, water ways and creeks.

ⓘ Residents make the biggest difference when it comes to reducing sewer backups and spills by adhering to Sewer Smart tips.

FOG = FATS, OILS & GREASE

Q. **What can I do?**

A. Here are some quick **Dos & Don'ts** to keep fats, oils and grease out of our sewer system.

✓ Wipe down greasy pots and pans with a dry paper towel and dispose of it in your kitchen scrap recycling or garbage.

✗ Do not pour FOG down the garbage disposal or sink drain.

✗ Do not use hot water to wash the grease down the drain.

✓ Pour cooled oil, fats and grease into a can or other container with a tight lid (coffee can, glass jar or plastic container) and dispose of it in the garbage.

✓ If your city's green waste program allows disposal of food scraps – include FOG. It will be recycled into rich compost. ♻

✓ Use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids – and dispose of them in the trash.

✓ Drop off large amounts of FOG at your local recycling center, especially if you use a turkey fryer this holiday season and have a large amount of oil leftover. Once cooled, pour the oil into a container and dispose of it at your local collection center.

Q. **What are businesses doing?**

A. FOG is discharged not only by residents but also by businesses. Food handling establishments are required to install and maintain grease traps or 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 all help prevent sewer clogging and sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and 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 cause greater environmental problems when they enter the wastewater system and end up in our waterways, the bay or ocean, impacting marine life.

www.sewersmart.org