



**WOODINVILLE WATER DISTRICT**  
Providing safe and reliable service with responsible rates since 1959



## What is FOG?

FOG is an acronym for **Fats, Oils, and Grease**, which is commonly found in wastewater. When poured down the drain, FOG can build up in pipes and equipment and cause significant problems in the sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. Problems such as sewer line blockages cause environmental health hazards and property damage and lead to increased operation and maintenance costs which show up as higher sewer bills for customers.

# FAT FREE SEWERS

## Why should you care?

Residential households contribute FOG build-up in the sewer lines because of the amount of grease washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Sewer lines in older homes are most at risk of sewer backup if residents don't properly dispose of FOG. It may seem obvious and straight forward that if a sewer backup occurs the District is responsible for cleaning it up and for any financial loss that may have occurred. But often, this is not the case. The District is responsible for maintaining the mains, keeping them clean so your sewage flows freely to the transmission mains. Homeowners are solely responsible for the laterals; these are the lines connecting your home to our mains. If a blockage occurs in the lateral, it is the homeowner's responsibility to repair it and pay the cleanup costs. We will provide a list of commercial cleanup companies that specialize in sewage cleanup.





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## What can you do?

The easiest way to solve the grease problem is to keep FOG out of the sewer system in the first place. Follow the easy tips listed below and not only will your family be protecting the environment from sanitary sewer overflows, but you may never have to call a plumber again!

## What are some proper FOG handling and storage methods?

- > Never pour fats, oils, and grease down the sink drains or garbage disposal.
- > Pour FOG into jars, cans, and plastic tubs (wait until cooled). Let contents cool and solidify. When the container is full, throw it away in your trash.
- > Mix cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place in a lidded container for disposal with your trash.
- > Never dispose of FOG outside, on the ground, or down the storm drain.

## What about Homeowner's Insurance?

Insurance for sewer backups may or may not be available from your insurer, and if available, is usually an added coverage not provided in the basic homeowner policy. Check with your insurance provider for specific coverage availability and costs. If your insurance company provides sewer backup coverage by endorsement or rider, you may find coverage to be fairly inexpensive but valuable to your peace of mind. If the blockage occurs in our lines, it is still not a guarantee the District will be held responsible for the damages, so please check with your homeowner's insurance about your coverage.

## FOG is found in such things as:

- > Meat fats
- > Food scraps
- > Lard/shortening
- > Baking goods
- > Butter/margarine
- > Cooking oil
- > Sauces

## QUESTIONS? CONTACT US

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