

Clearing the FOG

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline, they're bad for the sewers, too. All liquid FOG that is disposed of down the drain, either down the sink or through dishwashers, will eventually solidify in the pipe. FOG solidifies when it mixes with cooler wastewater, forming a sticky, greasy substance that coats the inside of sewer pipes. This grease will cling to any obstruction along the inside of the pipe that it comes into contact with. As more and more grease enters the sewer system, it solidifies around any existing debris that is lodged in the pipe and very quickly reduces the diameter of the pipe. This ultimately leads to the entire pipe diameter getting blocked and can result in:

- 1) Raw sewage overflows in your or your neighbour's home;
- 2) An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the homeowner;
- 3) Raw sewage overflowing into parks and streets;
- 4) Risk to Public Health
- 5) An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, causing higher sewer bills for customers; and
- 6) Pollution of rivers and streams due to sewage spills caused by the blockages

Grease in sewers is not just caused by disposal of lard or cooking oil. The oil content in sauces and dairy and meat products has the same effect.

Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council tackles this problem at source by requiring Food Service Establishments to control their FOG discharges. However, substantial amounts of grease are still being poured down the drain by homeowners.

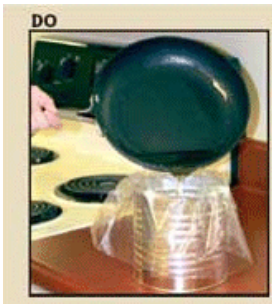
What you can do to help

The easiest way to solve the grease problem is to keep this material out of the sewers in the first place. There are several ways to do this.

1. Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets. Pour it into a sealed container such as an old jam jar or margarine container and dispose of it with your bin. Better still, take it to a Council Bring Centre and recycle it. Drain oil from cans of tuna or sundried tomatoes in this way too.
2. Use paper towels to clean up grease residues left on kitchen utensils. Dispose of these towels in the bin.
3. Food particles such as rice or beans that are washed down the drain can get caught in grease deposits and increase the speed at which the sewer gets blocked. Scrape grease and food scraps from cooking vessels and plates into the bin before you wash them
4. Do not put grease down garbage disposals or macerators.
5. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty these into the bin for disposal.

Reducing the amount of FOG that is disposed of to sewer will greatly reduce the likelihood of a sewer blockage affecting your home. It will also substantially reduce the amount of sewer blockages that occur in public areas and will have a positive effect on the aquatic environment by reducing the number of sewage spills entering our watercourses.

If you have any queries in relation to grease please contact the Water Pollution Section of the Council on 01 2955 063



Please do this but don't do this

or this will be the result!