



## City of Santa Barbara Fats, Oils, and Grease Control Program: (805) 568-1005

### FATS, OILS & GREASE (FOG)

#### What is FOG?

FOG stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease. Did you know that pouring fats, oils, and grease down the drain or garbage disposal creates obstructions in underground pipes and creates serious problems like blockages and sewer overflows? In fact, FOG is one of the leading causes of sewer overflows and blockages in the United States.

When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of your sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, grease buildup can clog an entire pipeline, causing sewer overflows in your home and neighborhood. The damage from overflows could cost you thousands of dollars!

**Here are some simple tips on how to prevent sewer overflows.**

- Do not pour cooking oil, greasy food, dairy products, or salad dressing down the drain.
- Use strainers in the sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids.
- Do not use hot water and soap to try to wash grease down the drain. It will eventually cool and harden in the sewer lines.
- Pour cooled grease into a disposable container, cover with a tight fitting lid and place in your freezer. Once contents are frozen, toss in the garbage.
- Mix cooking oils with absorbent material such as coffee grounds or cat litter. Place in tight lidded container and dispose of it in garbage.
- Wipe or scrape food particles from pots, pans and dishes into the trash can prior to placing them in the sink for washing.
- Wipe excess fats and grease from pans with a dry paper towel and toss it in the garbage.



Clogged Sewer Line Caused by FOG



Collect large amounts of liquid cooking and/or fry oil in a sealed container and take to the locations in Santa Barbara County listed here: <http://www.lessismore.org/materials/52-cooking-oil>

**For more information see the following links:**

- Residential FOG Outreach (English/Spanish) [PDF]
- Food Service Establishment Best Management Practices (English/Spanish) [PDF]
- FOG Control Program Power Point Presentation [PDF]
- FOG Pumping Contractor Record & Grease Trap Cleaning Log [PDF]
- Grease Interceptor Variance Form [PDF]