



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

# How to Keep Cooking Grease Out of the Drain



## You Can Help Prevent Sewer Spills



## Cooking Grease

is one of the primary causes of residential pipeline and City sewer main clogs resulting in sewer spills throughout the Metropolitan Wastewater Sewerage area. The spilled sewage eventually reaches

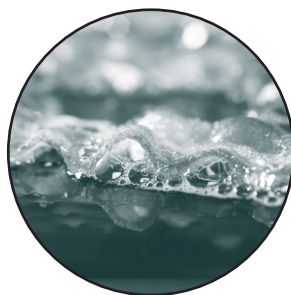


San Diego's bays, rivers, and beaches, causing unsafe conditions and temporary closures.

All cooking oils disposed of improperly can cause problems in the sewer system.

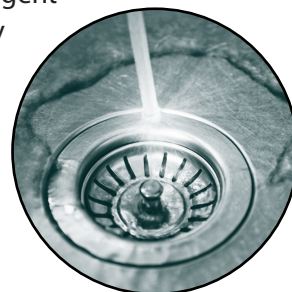
These include:

- frying oil
- salad oil
- meat drippings
- bacon fat
- greasy leftovers



## Important Facts

- Cooking grease coats pipelines similar to the way that fatty foods clog human arteries. The grease clings to the inside of the pipelines, eventually causing complete blockage.
- Costly home plumbing bills are often the result of grease-clogged pipelines. Residential pipelines clog easily since they are only 2"– 4" in diameter.
- Many people are unaware that pouring hot water and detergent down the drain only breaks up grease temporarily. Grease should NEVER be poured down the drain. If small amounts of grease accidentally get into your drain, flush immediately with COLD water.
- Flushing grease down the toilet also causes sewer backups.



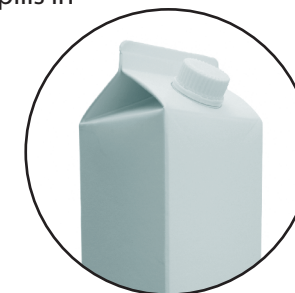
### Report Spills!

If you see or smell something you think might be a sewer spill, report it immediately by calling (619) 515-3525. Be prepared to describe the location and the nature of the problem.

By following a few simple steps, you can help prevent costly sewer spills in the future.

### Step 1

All cooking oil should be poured into an old milk carton, frozen juice container, or other nonrecyclable package, and disposed of in the garbage, not down the drain.



### Step 2

Dishes and pots that are coated with greasy leftovers should be wiped clean with a disposable towel prior to washing or placement in dishwashers.

### Step 3

Instead of placing fat trimmings from meat in the garbage disposal, put them in a trash can. ALWAYS put cooking grease containers and greasy towels in a plastic bag before disposing of them in your trash bag. NEVER dispose of cooking grease directly into your automated trash container.



## Other Causes

- The continual flow of nutrient-filled water found in pipelines attracts tree roots through pipe joints and manholes. The roots eventually grow, causing separation of the pipeline joints or blockages in the pipe. Always avoid planting trees and shrubs near residential and City sewer pipelines.
- Rocks, debris, power outages, vandalism, rain and construction are also contributing factors to sewer spills.

## About Public Utilities

The City of San Diego Public Utilities Department provides safe, healthful drinking water to the 1.3 million residents of San Diego and regional wastewater treatment and disposal services for more than 2 million residents of San Diego County.

For general information, please visit our website at [www.sandiego.gov/publicutilities](http://www.sandiego.gov/publicutilities)



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