The City of SAN DIEGO
Mayor Todd Gloria

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Keep the Holidays Clog-Free by Properly Disposing of Fats, Oils and Grease

BLOCKAGES CAN DAMAGE PIPES INSIDE THE HOME AND CAUSE DESTRUCTIVE SEWER SPILLS

SAN DIEGO – As the holiday season gets underway, the City of San Diego is reminding people not to dispose of fats, oils or grease down the drain. Cooking grease coats the inside of pipes, eventually causing blockages and potential sewer spills.

The day after Thanksgiving is one of the busiest days of the year for plumbing emergencies due to kitchen drain clogs and jammed garbage disposals, which can lead to costly and inconvenient repairs.

"Cooking grease is one of the primary causes of residential pipeline and City sewer main clogs," said Drew Kleis, Director of the Public Utilities Department. **"Improperly disposing even a small amount of cooking oil can cause problems in your home's plumbing and in the sewer system, leading to spills that can reach San Diego's bays, rivers and beaches."**

Residential pipelines are generally only two to four inches in diameter and can clog easily, leading to costly plumbing bills. Pouring hot water and detergent down the drain is not a fix and only temporarily breaks up grease.

Following a few simple tips can help keep your plumbing as clear as possible and help prevent sewer spills.

- Never pour fats, oils or grease down the sink drain or garbage disposal. If small amounts of grease accidentally get into your drain, flush immediately with cold water.
- Pour small amounts of cooking oil, including salad dressing, frying oil and bacon fat, into a non-recyclable package, like an old milk carton and throw it into the garbage.
- Wipe dishes and pots that are coated with grease with a disposable towel before washing or placing them in the dishwasher.
- Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and then empty them into the trash or composting bin, not the garbage disposal. Residents should place food scraps and food-soiled paper (such as napkins and paper towels) into their green organic waste recycling bins.

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City of San Diego residents can recycle their cooking oil for free at the Miramar Recycling Center. A cooking oil recycling bin is available for City residents to dispose of up to 7.5 gallons of cooking oil.

For more information about grease disposal, visit sandiego.gov/prevent-spills.



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