

Preventing sewer backups

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Being an informed consumer, you know that eating a diet high in saturated fat is bad for your heart and adds considerably to your waistline. Did you also know that the same thing can be said about your sewer system? Yep, a major cause of clogged arteries (pipes) in your sewer system is due to fats, oils and greases (FOG).

Even though the FOG may be liquid when you first pour it down the drain, it doesn't stay that way for very long. The FOG begins to harden and cling to the inside of the pipes. Over-time the build-up can clog your trap or sewer main causing a backup of sewage into your home or business.

It's false that running hot water and adding detergent to your pipes is sufficient to remove FOG. The only way to keep FOG from causing a backup is to NOT put it down the drain.

Follow these simple steps will help reduce your chances of a sewage backup or overflow that could potential cause damage your property.

Homeowners:

- Never pour grease down the drain or toilet.
- Scrap grease and food scraps from dishes and pans before washing and throw it in the trash.
- Pour grease into an old can to cool and solidify. Then throw it in the trash.

Businesses in addition to the previous steps:

- Install a properly sized grease trap.
- Have grease trap cleaned and serviced regularly.