

# GREASE MANAGEMENT FOR YOUR HOME

Fats, oils and grease can cause serious problems for your sewer collection systems. Sewer backups can cause damage to homes, health hazards and threaten the environment. Sewer pipes blocked by grease are an increasingly common cause of overflows. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains.

## Where does grease come from?

Fats, Oils, and Grease are a natural consequence of cooking and can also occur naturally in many foods. Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oils. It can be found in such things as:

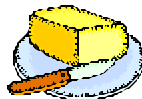
- ◆ Meat fats



- ◆ Lard

- ◆ Cooking Oil

- ◆ Butter and margarine



- ◆ Shortening

- ◆ Food scraps

- ◆ Baking goods



## What are the consequences?

Grease is frequently poured down the sink drain because the warm fats and vegetable oils are liquid and can be poured. It may not appear harmful but as the liquid cools, the grease solidifies and causes buildup inside the pipes, becoming a hardened mass. The buildup restricts the flow of sewage and clogs the pipes.

The implications can be:


- ◆ Raw sewage overflowing into your home.
- ◆ An unpleasant and expensive cleanup at your expense.
- ◆ Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards and streets.
- ◆ Potential contact with disease-causing organisms.
- ◆ Increased cost for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.



Each year, The City of London spends considerable time and money attending to blocked pipes at Pumping Stations that receive residential flow.

## What can your do?

The easiest thing you can do is keep grease out of the sewer system in the first place.

- ◆ Never pour grease down the sink drain or into the toilet.
- ◆ Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or the trash for disposal. 
- ◆ Do not put grease down the garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- ◆ Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids.
- ◆ Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.
- ◆ Call Greenway Pollution Control Plant if you have any questions: **661-2570**.
- ◆ Group tours are available at the Greenway Sewage Treatment Plant to students in grade 5 or above.