

Help avoid sewer blockages and overflows in your neighborhood by following the simple guidelines in this brochure! Sewer cleanups are not only expensive and unpleasant, but the cost of cleanup must be paid by the property owner. The average cleanup cost is about \$3,000, which does not include replacing carpets and repairing walls.



No fats, oil, or grease down the drain!

For more information on the **FOG** Program (**Fats, Oils and Grease**), contact the City of Santa Maria Utilities Department, (805) 925-0951, extension 7270.

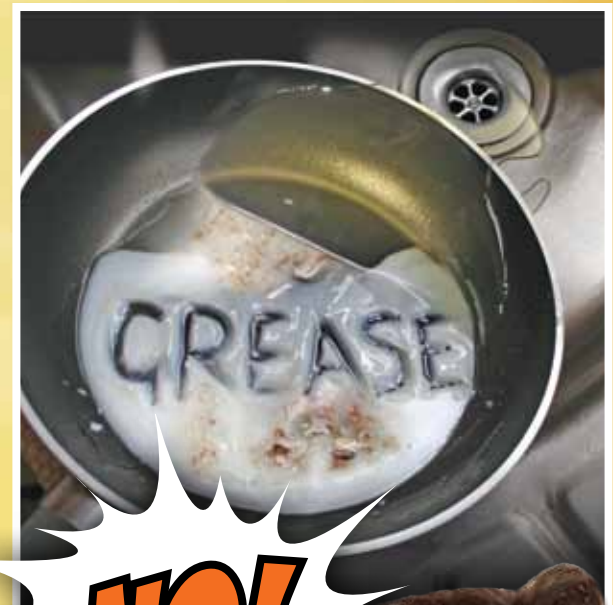
CITY OF SANTA MARIA



Utilities Department

www.cityofsantamaria.org

WATER • WASTEWATER • SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL & COLLECTIONS



NO!



No fats, oil, or grease down the drain!



Simple steps all Santa Maria residents can take to prevent major sewage problems:



Did you know pouring fats, oil, grease, and dairy products down the drain or your garbage disposal creates obstructions in underground pipes and creates serious problems like blockages and overflows? When grease is washed down the drain, it sticks to the inside of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the street.) Over time, it builds up and can block an entire pipeline. Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the pipes; they only shred it into smaller pieces. Commercial additives, including detergents that claim to dissolve grease, may pass the grease down the line and cause problems away from the source.



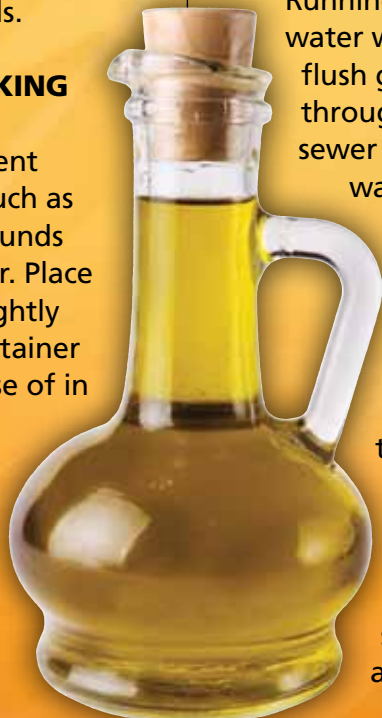
DO NOT put any dairy products, fats, oil, grease, or greasy food down the garbage disposal or drain. Use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids.

MIX COOKING OILS with an absorbent material such as coffee grounds or cat litter. Place this in a tightly lidded container and dispose of in the trash.

FREEZE small amounts of fats, oil, and grease in a container with a tight fitting lid and dispose of it in the trash.



Running hot tap water will *not* flush grease through the sewer pipe. The water and grease cool down as they flow through the pipe, and the grease will become solid again.



WIPE OR SCRAPE greasy pots, pans, and dishes prior to washing them and throw the paper towel in the trash.

KEEP DRAINS CLEAN by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes, then rinse with hot water.

DO NOT use the toilet as a wastebasket. Flushed trash can make sewer clogs even worse.

