

HOW TO AVOID CLOGS FROM FOG



**A RESIDENT'S GUIDE TO PREVENTING
SEWER CLOGS FROM FATS, OILS & GREASE**

What is FOG?

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) come from many common food items, such as:

- meat fats
- bacon grease
- cooking oil
- shortening
- butter
- margarine
- salad dressing
- sour cream
- dairy products
- mayonnaise
- lard
- gravy
- sauces

What happens when you pour FOG down the drain?

When FOG is poured down kitchen drains or garbage disposals, it accumulates inside sewer pipes. As the FOG builds up, it restricts the flow in the pipes and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes, businesses, streets and the environment, resulting in high costs for cleanup and restoration.



PREVENT CLOGGED PIPES AND SEWER BACKUPS

KEEP FATS, OILS AND GREASE OUT OF YOUR HOME'S DRAIN

Save money & time with small changes in your kitchen habits

FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease) are the most common contributor to kitchen plumbing problems. As FOG is washed down the drain, it builds up in pipes, causing clogged pipes and slow drains.



The plumbing problems caused by FOG can be costly to homeowners. Calling a plumber to resolve a clogged drain takes time out of your schedule, creates an inconvenience for your household, and can cost hundreds of dollars.

To avoid partially or completely clogged drains, keep FOG out of your pipes. Never pour FOG down the sink drain or garbage disposal.

Cool it, Can it, Trash it.

Pour or scrape cooled fats, oils, and grease into a can or other container with a tight lid (such as a coffee can, glass jar, or plastic container) and place the container in the garbage.

How to dispose of Fats, Oils and Grease: Dos & Don'ts

DO NOT



Do not pour FOG down the garbage disposal, sink, or drain (this includes liquid foods like syrups, batters, gravy, etc.)



Do not use hot water or dish soap to wash the FOG down the drain.



Do not use chemicals to remove clogs caused by FOG; they can damage pipes.

DO



Pour cooled FOG into a can or other container with a tight lid (coffee can, glass jar, etc.) and place it in the garbage.



Scrape FOG into the garbage. Put compostable food (vegetables, fruits, breads, coffee grounds, tea bags) into a compost bin, if available.



Before putting your dirty dishes in the sink, wipe off excess FOG with a paper towel and throw the paper towel in the trash.

Common myths about FOG

MYTH: *"It's alright to pour FOG down the garbage disposal."*

TRUTH: The garbage disposal only grinds up larger items before passing them into your sewer pipes. Instead, compost food scraps or dispose of them in the garbage.

MYTH: *"It's alright to pour FOG down the drain if I run hot water with it."*

TRUTH: No amount of hot water keeps grease from eventually congealing. This only gets the FOG through the part of the pipes in your home. Once it goes into the sewer and cools, it sticks to the walls of the pipes and creates an expensive and messy problem of sewer backups—for you, for your neighbors and for the creeks and rivers in your neighborhood.

MYTH: *"It's alright to pour FOG in the sink if I add some dish soap."*

TRUTH: Dish soap may temporarily break up FOG, but eventually it will lose its effectiveness, causing the FOG to solidify in the pipes.

Help Haverhill Fight FOG

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) are a real “pain in the drain” because they are the major cause of problems we find in sewer lines. Things like bacon grease, cooking oil, butter, margarine, shortening, pan drippings and sauces can cause blockages in sewer lines. Clogged sewer lines can lead to sewer overflows, which are bad for the environment, and can be expensive for homeowners.

This is a nationwide issue. In fact, recent estimates identify 75 percent of U.S. sewer systems working at half capacity due to blockages caused by FOG.

Haverhill’s Wastewater Department is doing everything it can to reduce FOG in our city’s sewers and prevent overflows, but we can’t do it alone. **We need your help!**

The best way you can prevent clogged sewer pipes is to never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain. Instead, let it cool down, collect it in a container and throw it away in the trash.

Cool it, Can it, Trash it!



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