



FATS, OILS, GREASE & WIPES

Help prevent sewer back-ups and protect your property

Key Questions

Q: Do you own or rent property in Providence?

Q: When cooking, do you produce fats, oils and grease?

Q: Do you use sanitary wipes?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, you can help yourself and the City with a few simple steps!

- Do not flush wipes
- Do not put fats, oils, or grease in your drain

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) can cause problems in sewer systems. These inputs can cool, harden, and stick to the inside of pipes. This can lead to blockages that can be difficult and costly to clean.

FOG can enter the sewer system through kitchen sinks and floor drains in food preparation areas, or when poured or flushed down sinks, drains or toilets.

Sewage backups and overflows can lead to property damage, environmental problems and other health hazards. Grease in pipes can also increase plumbing costs and utility bills.

Sewage overflows in your home and neighborhood are a major health hazard, and floods in your home can result in significant damage to your property and belongings, along with expensive cleanup costs.

This can also lead to potential exposure to disease-carrying organisms, as well as, pollution to rivers, lakes, and public recreational spaces.

Putting fats, oil, and grease down the drain or wipes in the toilet can lead to serious issues, so keeping your home's plumbing in good shape is simple with the below steps:

FOG can come from many sources:

- Cooking oils, shortening, lard, butter and margarine
- Food scraps, gravy, mayonnaise, salad dressings and sour cream
- Restaurants, bars, grills and grocery stores
- Food processing facilities
- Automobile service shops
- Apartments and homes



CLOGGED PIPE WITH FOG

BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT CLOGGED PIPES:

- Place all food scraps into your compost bin or trash cart (please scrape your plates clean).
- Dispose of fats, oil and grease by enclosing them in a watertight container and tossing the container into the trash cart.
- Place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain when washing or rinsing your dishes and kitchenware. Throw the scraps collected into your compost bin or trash cart.
- Wipe pots, dishes, and kitchenware with paper towels before rinsing or washing them.
- Rinse dishes and kitchenware with cold water before putting them into the dishwasher. Hot water melts fats, oil, and grease off of the dishes. This water enters the sewer pipes and creates clogs once it cools.