



Reducing Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) in Our Sewers

What is FOG?

Fats, oils and grease (FOG) are found in food scraps, meat fats, lard, oil, margarine, butter, sauces and dairy products. FOG is commonly associated with fried foods and baked goods prepared at home or in a food establishment. When FOG is not disposed of properly, it can clog your home's plumbing as well as municipal sewers.

Why Should FOG Matter To You?

When washed down a sink or drain, FOG builds up over time and can cause a blockage in your drains, pipes and in sanitary sewers. Blockages lead to increased costs to maintain private plumbing, our sewers, the wastewater treatment plants and public and private property.

- **Neighborhood:** Plumbing and sewer backups can result in property damage and various code violations. These backups can also create hazardous and unhealthy conditions.
- **Environment:** Clogged sewers can cause raw sewage overflows, which release untreated sewage into our rivers and streams. Sewer overflows make waterways unsafe for recreation, and they threaten the fish and other aquatic life that live in our rivers and streams.
- **Quality of Life:** Sewer backups and clogs attract insects and vermin, resulting in undesirable and unhealthy living conditions.

How Can You Reduce FOG In Our Sewers?

- Pour cooking fat or grease into a small container. Once it solidifies, place it in the garbage.
- Dispose of food waste in the trash or compost organic waste instead of putting it down the garbage disposal.
- "Dry wipe" pots, pans and dishes before washing to minimize the amount of FOG and solids washed down the drain.
- Do not put used oil, oil based paints, solvents or other chemicals down sewer lines or storm drains. Dispose of them at a Household Hazardous Waste Drop Off Event. Visit <https://www.aacounty.org/household-hazardous-waste-drop-off> for more information.
- Dispose of food waste in the trash or compost organic waste instead of putting it down the garbage disposal.

Spread The Word

Educating residents about proper disposal of FOG is a Department of Public Works program, and you can help by sharing this information with friends and neighbors. Department of Public Works is working hard to improve Anne Arundel County's water quality by informing residents and businesses of ways to reduce water pollution and improve quality of life for those who live and work here.