



# HOW TO SAFELY DISPOSE FATS, OILS, & GREASE

## THE CITY OF SANDY SPRINGS NEEDS YOUR HELP

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) poured down household drains cost Sandy Springs residents thousands of dollars every year. Fatty substances accumulate in our sewer system and create clogs. These clogs result in sewage back-ups in both residential and commercial areas. Sewer back-ups damage City infrastructure, create health hazards, and threaten the natural environment. Ultimately, it is the residents of Sandy Springs that end up bearing the unnecessary cost of cleanup and repair. The cost directly impacts property owners through their property taxes, but residents living in rental properties also pay a price when property owners pass on the cost to their tenants.

## WHERE DOES FOG COME FROM?

Fats, oils, and grease are by-products of many foods and are used in the cooking of food. Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oil. Grease can be found in such foods as:

- ◆ Meats
- ◆ Sauces
- ◆ Marinades
- ◆ Salad dressings
- ◆ Mayonnaise
- ◆ Gravy
- ◆ Cooking Oils
- ◆ Cookies & pastries
- ◆ Cheese
- ◆ Butter & Margarine
- ◆ Shortening
- ◆ Ice cream

## PREVENT FOG DAMAGE TO THE SEWER SYSTEM

FOG enters your plumbing system through home garbage disposals, kitchen sinks, and dishwashers. FOG coats the inside of your plumbing drain pipes. It then empties into the Fulton County sewer system.

Think of FOG as “hardening of the arteries.” When cholesterol builds up in the human bloodstream, it can cause a heart attack. When FOG hardens in the sewer, it can cause a system overflow.





Stop and think,

Not down the sink!

## DON'T POUR FOG DOWN THE DRAIN

Fats, oils, and grease entering the sewer system increase the cost of maintaining and operating water and sewer services. The increased cost is ultimately passed on to you, the consumer.

### Follow These Easy Steps For Disposal:

- ◆ Allow FOG to cool and place in a sealed container. Place container in garbage.
- ◆ Wipe and scrape excess FOG from plates, pots, pans, utensils and cooking surfaces before washing.
- ◆ Put greasy paper towels in the garbage.
- ◆ Don't flush grease down drains with hot water.
- ◆ Don't unnecessarily dispose of foods in garbage disposals

## ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF FOG

Sewer overflows not only cost residents financially, they also have a negative impact on the environment through the contamination of natural waterways. Overflowed sewage runs into storm drains and on into ponds, streams and rivers. This can destroy aquatic life and cause health risk concerns for residents using these waterways for recreational activities. Backed-up sewage and accumulated food residue are perfect breeding grounds for bacteria, insects, and other vermin.



For more information on Clean Water practices and Stormwater management, please refer to:

City of Sandy Springs  
Public Works  
Stormwater Division  
770-730-5600  
[sandy Springsga.org/stormwater](http://sandy Springsga.org/stormwater)

To report a sewer overflow, contact Fulton County.

Fulton County  
Public Works Department  
Water Services Division  
North Fulton Office - 770-640-3040  
South Fulton Office - 770-995-2976