



*Don't be this person! There's no "acceptable" amount of grease that can be poured down the drain. Remember that if every house dispose "a little bit", then all the little bits combined becomes a big problem!*

## Keep drains clear!

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into an empty can or jar. Do not pour fats, oil or grease down drains or garbage disposals. Be creative on your container selection! Empty mayo, peanut butter, sauces, dressings, jelly jars, milk carton, etc; can all be used as a FOG dispenser.
- **Allow grease to cool** or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash (freezing is optional but makes the disposal of FOGs less messy).
- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter, paper towels, or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Place your cooking grease containers and greasy towels in a plastic bag before you put them in your trash (great use for those supermarket plastic bags, who usually end up in the trash anyways).

- Wipe grease of cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces with a paper towel before washing. Do not rinse off with hot water.
- Scrape food scraps from dishes and pans directly into your trash. Use baskets or strainers in your sinks to catch food scraps, then empty them in your trash. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid materials into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- Put your fat trimmings and meat drippings in your trash.



*Proper disposal of FOGs is the key for a healthy sewer system and treatment plant. Be part of the solution and not the problem!*

**FOUR CORNERS**  
**Water & Sewer District**  
 495 Quail Run Road  
 Bozeman, MT 59718

# GREASE IS YOUR DRAIN'S WORST ENEMY!



## LET'S TALK ABOUT GREASE!

*And why you should stop pouring it down the drain!*



*When fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) are washed down the drain, they stick to pipes and may lead to sewer system problems!*

## Understanding the Problem...

Facing a kitchen full of dirty pots, pans, and dishes is likely everyone's least favorite part of preparing a meal. As tempting as it is to dispose of that bacon fat, cooking oil, or leftover food scraps down the sink, this habit of convenience leads to problems in the pipes inside your home and our sewer system. Fats, oils, and grease (also known as FOGs) are found in food scraps, meat fats, lard, cooking oil, butter, margarine, shortening, dressings, sauces, and dairy products.

Wastewater from your home is just beginning its journey through our sewer system, carrying everything you send down the drain with it. Fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) stick to the inside of sewer pipes, building up overtime in your home's plumbing and the public sewer system. This build up decreases pipe capacity and therefore requires that piping systems be cleaned more often and/or some piping to be replaced sooner than otherwise expected.

In extreme cases, the buildup may be so severe that it can clog the entire pipe and cause sewer backups – out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains into homes. *YUCK!*

FOGs also hamper effective treatment at the wastewater treatment plant. We at Four Corners Water and Sewer know **A LOT** about this, as we've been working diligently to mitigate and control the amount of FOGs that have been arriving at our treatment plants.

Residents can help control the problem by properly disposing of FOG to keep sewers clear. One resident's habits can impact an entire neighborhood. Everyone is part of the solution.



FROM POTS AND PANS...



TO PIPES!

**FOG**  
FAT • OIL • GREASE  
contain it, don't drain it

We at Four Corners Water and Sewer District would be very thankful if you joined us in an effort to reduce the amount of FOGs in our sewer system. It is never pleasant to deal with sewer problems.

FOGs build up demands more from our operators and maintenance team. When we invest into new technology to deal with FOGs, or we have to send people out to clear sewer blockages, this cost is passed down to users like you! So, become our ally! It is in your best interest, and we all benefit from it.

And don't transfer the problem from our sewer pipes to the environment. Dumping FOGs into parking lots and the environment is very much **illegal!**



*Definitively do not be this individual! The disposal of FOGs into parking lots and open areas isn't only illegal, but it is damaging to the environment. At the next rain or snow melt, water will push those FOGs ultimately into our rivers.*