

# Preventing Sewer Backups Protects Public Health, The Environment and Saves Everyone Money

## What is FOG (Fats, Oils and Grease)?

- ❖ FOG is fats, oils, and grease that can build up in sewer lines. When grease is washed down the sink or toilet it sticks to the inside of sewer pipes. This can increase the chance of a sewer back up into homes, businesses, apartments and public spaces.

## Where Does FOG Come From?

- ❖ Meat Fats (bacon, sausage), Lard, Cooking Oil, Butter or Margarine, Food Scraps, Baking Products, Milk, Ice Cream, Yogurt, Sour Cream, Cream Based Sauces, Salad Dressings, Cheeses, Mayonnaise ~~ Keep these foods and more out of ALL drains!

## Daily Kitchen Practices to Prevent Sewer Backups

- ❖ **NEVER** • Never pour grease down sink drains or toilets, never use the toilet for disposal of food scraps, sanitary items, cloths or towels ~~ These items should be placed in the trash!
- ❖ **ALWAYS** • Dispose of cooled cooking grease into a container with a lid and throw it in the garbage. For Example: a metal can or glass jar ~ Scrape food scraps from dirty dishes and pans into the trash can before washing ~ Use a paper towel or a scraper to remove residual grease from dishes and pans prior to washing ~ Use baskets or strainers in sinks to catch food scraps ~ Minimize the use of your garbage disposal -- It does not eliminate grease!
- ❖ Liquid dish detergents that claim to dissolve grease may actually pass grease down the sewer line, which could cause a sewer backup. It is important to scrape grease off all dishes.

## Wipes Clog Pipes

Did you know that most “disposable” wipes do not dissolve when flushed?

- ❖ **Do Flush** - Toilet Paper and Human Waste
- ❖ **Don't Flush** – “Disposable” Wipes, Paper Towels, Feminine Products, Cotton Balls, Dental Floss, Diapers or Other Items
- ✓ Many modern personal and household cleaning products are marketed as “flushable” or “disposable.” However, unlike toilet paper, which breaks down quickly, these products remain intact indefinitely. They can clog your home’s plumbing system, resulting in sewer backups that require costly repairs. Plus, flushing these items down the toilet uses excess water and can increase your water bill. So-called flushable items also accumulate in the sewer system or get tangled in sewage pumps when flushed down toilets.

## Contact Information for City of Highland

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