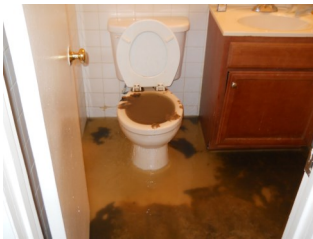


**Avoid  
clogged  
pipes**



**and Sewer  
backups  
in your  
house**

**HOW?**



### ***Wastewater Management Mission***

To safely collect, treat, and monitor wastewater in compliance with all regulatory requirements using state-of-the-art technology in the most effective manner. We work to improve the environment and enhance the quality of life in Fairfax County.

### **FAIRFAX COUNTY WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT**



*Quality of Water = Quality of Life*

Fairfax County  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
Wastewater Management Program

24-hour Trouble Response Center  
Phone: 703-323-1211  
[fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater](http://fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/wastewater)



A Fairfax County, Va., publication  
January 2017

To request reasonable ADA accommodations,  
call PHONE# 703-550-9740, TTY 711



# **FOG**

***Prevent Fats, Oils, & Grease from  
damaging your home and the  
Environment***



**This greasy criminal  
wants to take  
your money and  
clog your drain.**



**Save your cash, put  
all grease in the  
trash.**



Fairfax County  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS &  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES  
Wastewater Management Program



## FOG FACTS

- ⇒ Fats, Oils, and Grease do not dissolve in water. They are “hydrophobic” or “afraid of water” and will stick to the walls of your sewer pipes.
- ⇒ Grease is found in meat fats, lard, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products.
- ⇒ Accumulation of fats, oils, and grease in private and public sewer lines are one of the major causes of sewer backups and odor problems.

## MYTH BUSTERS

- ◇ **MYTH:** I can prevent my pipes from becoming blocked and causing sewer backups in my house by flushing with plenty of hot water and detergents that “dissolve grease.”

**BUSTED:** Hot water and detergents do NOT dissolve grease—it only pushes FOG further down your pipes where it can stick and build up.

- ◇ **MYTH:** I protect my house and my pipes from clogs and sewer backups by adding chemicals to them periodically.

**BUSTED:** Although this may provide a temporary fix, harsh chemicals designed to unclog pipes can eat away at the pipes and cause leaks, cracks, and breaks over time. If needed, try small amounts of baking soda and vinegar as a more environmentally friendly option.



- ◇ **MYTH:** If there is a sewer backup, it will not be my problem to fix.

**BUSTED:** Costs can be significant! Residents are responsible for maintaining the pipe that extends from your home to the county sewer, including the connection to the sewer.



## HOW CAN YOU HELP?

- ◇ Put food scraps in the trash.
- ◇ Wipe excess grease from frying pans and plates with a paper towel and throw in the trash.
- ◇ Never pour fats, oils or grease down the drain!

### *“Can the Grease”*



can it

cool it

trash it

1. *Pour grease in a can.*
2. *Add an absorbent such as kitty litter or paper towel.*
3. *When can is full, place in*

## SPREAD THE WORD!

**TELL YOUR FRIENDS AND  
NEIGHBORS.**