



May 21, 2007

Dear Resident,

### **Cooking Oil and Grease Can Damage Your Home!**

Pouring cooking oil or grease down your drains will eventually clog the sewer pipe leaving your house. A clogged sewer pipe will cause sewage to back up in your sinks, bathtubs, and toilets. Sewer backups not only damage your home's interior, but they also cause a health hazard.

Results of clogged sewer pipes can include the following:

- Raw sewage overflowing into your home or your neighbor's home; or raw sewage overflowing into yards, streets, parks, schoolyards, and public areas.
- Contact with disease-causing organisms.
- Expensive repair costs for you if the clog occurs in your residential sewer pipes; and increased operational costs for the City's Water and Sewer Department, which cause higher utility bills for homeowners.

### **Sources of Grease in Your Home**

Household grease usually comes from the following foods:

- Meat
- Dairy products
- Shortening and lard
- Cooking oil
- Butter and margarine
- Sauces

Grease solidifies on the inside of your home sewer lines when you pour grease down the drain—even if you wash it down with hot water. Therefore, the pipe's opening gradually becomes smaller—eventually sealing the pipe entirely and causing a backup. Grease also sticks to the inside of the larger City sewer lines under the streets, causing the same problem there.

Garbage disposals don't prevent grease from getting into your sewer line—they only chop the food into small pieces, leaving the grease to clog your pipes. Drain cleaners that dissolve grease in your sink's drain still send the grease to the remainder of your sewer line, where it can clog the pipes there.

### **How to Dispose of Cooking Oil and Grease**

- Do **NOT** pour oil or grease down your sink drains, tubs, showers, or toilets. Instead, collect used cooking oil and grease in a **rigid plastic or metal container with a screw-top lid**.
  - When your container is full, do these things if you have **less than one gallon** of oil and grease:
    1. Put the lid on tightly.
    2. Put the container in a plastic bag and throw the container away with your regular trash.
  - If you have **more than one gallon** of oil and grease, put the lid on tightly and call 214-509-4500 for a household hazardous waste (HHW) pick up.
- Use the garbage disposal as little as possible. Instead, put food scraps in the trash.

The City's sewer pipes already have grease buildup that requires regular addition of degreasing chemicals and frequent cleaning by City work crews. With proper grease disposal, you can help reduce these added operational costs while protecting your home from sewer backups.

For more information, please contact the City of Allen Stacy Road Pump Station at **214-509-4530**.

Thank you for your help!

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City of Allen