

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 causes 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. Clogged sewer pipes can cause:

- **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 costs for the City of Allen's Water and Sewer Department when it has to clear clogs in the City sewer lines—causing higher water bills for Allen residents.

Sources of Grease in Your Home

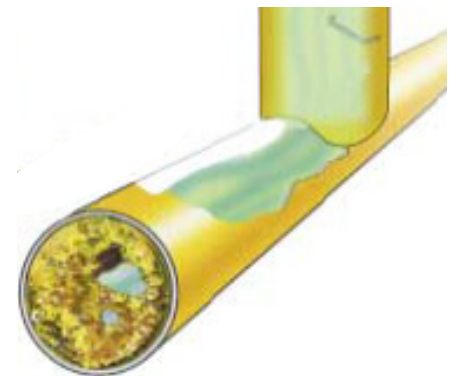
Household grease usually comes from these foods:

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



Grease solidifies on the inside of your pipes when you pour grease down the drain—even if you wash it down with hot water. The pipe's opening gradually becomes smaller, **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 keep grease out of your pipes—they only chop the food into small pieces, leaving the grease to continue down your pipe. **Drain cleaners** dissolve grease in your drain but send that same grease further down where a new clog can develop.



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.

Keep your drains and pipes running cleanly!