



How Does Grease Harm The Sewer System?

What is Grease?

[Fats, Oils, and Grease \(Called F.O.G\)](#) means organic polar compounds derived from animal and or plant sources that contain multiple carbon chain triglyceride molecules. [These substances](#) are detectable and measurable using analytical test procedures established in the United States Code of Federal Regulations 40 CFR 136, as may be amended from time to time. When these substances are put into the sewer systems it can cause major blockages that can lead to overflows.

Some examples of these products include:

1. Olive Oil
2. Canola Oil
3. Fats from Animal Scraps
4. Salad Dressing
5. Mayonnaise

And much more.

What are Other Ways to Dispose of Fats, Oils, and Grease?

Some ways to dispose of grease and oil is into a container (When they are cooled) and thrown into the garbage. Sink strainers can be used to catch food scraps and other items instead of letting them go down the drain. Greasy and oily dishware can also be wiped down with a dry paper towel before rinsing. Grease can also be absorbed with flour to make for easier disposal. Some may even reuse their oil as long as there is no odor, and does not contain sediment or a gelatinous substance at the bottom of the oil. Vegetable oils can be composed but **ONLY** in small amounts. Too much oil will cause the compost batch to go sour



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and develop odors, as well as potentially produce bugs. Cooking oil can also be recycled at a waste center that makes biofuel. They may accept the grease and use it to create biofuel. If this is not an option, restaurants are also viable options to ask if they will accept the already strained grease. Grease, Oils and Fats **SHOULD NEVER** be thrown outside, flushed down the toilet/put down the sink, and **DO NOT** put hot oil in the trash.

How Does Grease Harm The Sewer System?

F.O.G substances can cause major blockages in the sewer system, not allowing the sewer to flow properly. When this happens the sewer can overflow and cause a Sanitary Sewer Overflow. A [Sanitary Sewer Overflow](#) can pose a severe public health concern as well as cause pollution to the environment and drinking water. Raw sewerage contains bacteria, pathogens, viruses, and even worms. Several chronic illnesses such as Typhoid, Cholera, Dysentery, Gastroenteritis, Roundworm, Tapeworm and even Polio can be contracted from this bacteria, as well as many more.

When an [SSO](#) enters a waterway for swimming, drinking, fishing/shell-fishing the effects can be extremely harmful to the environment as well. Swimming and drinking contaminated water can contract illnesses as well as ingesting shell-fish that have been in contaminated water. Fish that eat the bottom-feeders can also contract illnesses and become sick, and make the people sick who consume the fish. Not only does an SSO contaminate the waterway, but money in tourism is lost every year for closed beaches, ponds, etc. This can drastically effect a local economy, especially in small towns that rely on tourism.

Its easy to help prevent an SSO! Flushing Fats, Oils, Grease, and food to the sewer system is a NO!



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We don't want blocks like this in our pipes! It's not only costly to fix, but a harm to us and our environment. Please flush **ONLY** white toilet paper and fecal matter to keep the sewer lines functioning properly! There is a list of Non Flushable's on the Town of Wareham Website.

Please do not hesitate to call the office for any questions or for a tour of the Wareham Water Pollution Control Facility. We are open Monday – Friday 7am to 3:30pm. (508) 295- 6144.

