



## **FOG Prevention**

### **Protect our environment and keep drains clear of Fat, Oil & Grease**

Fat, oil, and grease (FOG) in sewer pipes can create severe pollution problems in our City. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant, residential and commercial sink drains. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. FOG can build up and eventually block the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes can send sewage backward – out of manholes into streets and rivers, or up floor drains in homes. These sewage overflows pollute the environment.

### **Impact of FOG**

Preventing sewer backups from FOG blockages saves residents money and protects the environment. When sewer pipes on private property back up, the homeowner is responsible for the cleanup. For example, if a resident regularly pours grease down a drain, it will eventually cool, harden and form a blockage in the sewer pipe. Sewage then backs up through floor drains and toilets at the lowest point in the house. A plumber will have to be hired to clean the sewer and possibly repair plumbing inside the home. Cleanup costs can be expensive.

### **Sources of FOG**

Fat, oil, and grease are by-products of cooking found in:

- food scraps
- meat fats
- lard
- cooking oil
- butter, margarine or shortening

### **Keep Drains Clear**

#### **Follow These Tips:**

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar.
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash.
- Mix liquid vegetable oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds in a sealable container before throwing it in the trash.
- Keep drains clean by pouring 1/2 cup baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water.

Share these tips with your family, friends and neighbors.

#### **Do Not:**

- Pour fat, oil, or grease down drains or garbage disposals.
- Use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, dishes or surfaces.

### **For More Information**

Contact the St. Clair County Health Department at: 810.987.5306, [sfaust@hd.st.claircounty.org](mailto:sfaust@hd.st.claircounty.org) for more details.