

DO place cooled cooking oil, poultry and meat fats in sealed containers and discard with your regular garbage.



DO NOT dump cooking oil, poultry fat and grease into the kitchen sink or the toilet bowl.



REVIEW: Not down the drain!

- **Do not** put grease down the kitchen drain
- **Do not** place uncooked vegetables such as carrot and potato peels, broccoli stems, corn cobs or husks, asparagus, other fibrous fruits and vegetables in the garbage disposal, they are best disposed of in the compost pile or the non recycling trash.
- **Do not** wash coffee grounds, tea bags or egg shells down the sink. Remove paper and toss the rest in the compost pile or the non recycling trash.
- **Do not** dispose of pasta or rice to the garbage disposal, it may not pass through the garbage disposal. They are best disposed of in the compost pile or the non recycling trash.
- **Do not** allow hair to go down the lavatory drain if possible – remove from the lavatory and dispose of in the trash.

It is a good practice to periodically fill the sink with water and then release it to flush your piping.

Harsh drain cleaners are not recommended, but if you choose to use them, please follow the directions on the label.

If you have sewer problems, give the City a call first at 806.894.0113 and we will check the City main to insure it is clear.



City of Levelland; PO Box 1010; Levelland, TX; 79336
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Grease & Your Sewer System

DO'S & DON'T'S



**FOOD
BY-PRODUCT THAT-
STOPPED UP A DRAIN**

Did you know that grease from cooking is one of the major causes of residential sewer main clogs resulting in sewer spills?

Cooking oil and grease are wastes that the city's sewer system cannot handle and should not be discarded down the drain. Grease, fat and oil can clog sewer lines, causing sewage back-ups and flooding.

Sewage back-ups can damage personal and public property. By following a few simple steps, you can help prevent costly sewer spills in the future.

- **Small amounts of cooking oil (this includes salad oil, frying oil and bacon fat) should be poured into an old milk carton, frozen juice container, or other non-recyclable package, and disposed of in the garbage.**
- **Dishes and pots that are coated with greasy leftovers**

should be wiped clean with a paper towel prior to washing or placing in the dishwasher.

- **Instead of placing fat trimmings from meat down the garbage disposal, place them in a plastic bag and discard in the garbage can.**

Frequently Asked Questions About Grease and Your Sewer System

- **HOW BIG IS THE PROBLEM?**
Grease accounts for two-thirds of our sewer blockages and overflows. Whether it's a residential line or City main sewer main, grease can build up and block them all.
- **HOW DOES THIS PROBLEM AFFECT ME?**
As a community, the responsibility to be conscientious of what we put down the drain falls on all of us. We are all responsible for maintaining our water and wastewater lines whether physically or financially. You might think it's just a little cooking grease or oil. Just run hot water to dump it down the drain, right? The problem is that even though you use hot water, it may go down your drain, but when it joins wastewater from your neighbors, the grease floats on top of the water and sticks to the pipes as it makes its way downstream. It can also get caught on other globs of grease and food. These blockages may go unnoticed for months because they're not fully closed off... maybe they're just partially blocked. But when we hit a time when we need peak flow in the sewer system, the pipes can't handle the volume. Then all that water gets stopped up and starts to backflow wherever it can. It may even back up into your house.
- **WHY SHOULD I CARE IF IT'S NOT IN MY PIPES?**
Because even if isn't your house it may be your neighbor's house. Just because you personally haven't experienced an overflow doesn't mean it can't affect you. Grease can also cause sewage to back up into neighborhood streets, even into your home — remember anywhere water can get out it will. It's also an issue of cost. Levelland has a crew that does clean lines with a high pressure machine and do routine maintenance and make sure the sewer pipes are able to work properly. But emergencies require extra manpower and other resources, especially if pipe repair or replacement is needed. Construction isn't cheap and

Levelland is already doing a lot of work to maintain and replace our aging sewer infrastructure.

- **WHAT ABOUT RESTAURANTS? WHY AREN'T YOU TARGETING THEM?**
We are requiring restaurants and other commercial food preparation companies to use grease traps and properly dispose of oil and grease products in approved containers. If they don't, they can be fined and have legal action brought against them.
- **WHAT EXACTLY IS GREASE? IS IT JUST COOKING OIL?**
Grease is more than just oil or melted butter. It also comes from dairy foods like whole milk. It's in the goo that you pour out of the top of your canned goods after opening them. It's peanut butter, fried foods or leftovers that get chopped up in your garbage disposal, salad dressing, cooking lard for baking, even frosting on cake. If it contains fats of any kind, those fats will be released as it decomposes and clog up our pipes.
- **WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP?**
Use a disposable container to get rid of cooled grease and fats. Make sure you use some sort of container that won't melt or deteriorate. Keep it by or under your sink so it's handy when you're cleaning up.

One of the best things you can do is educate your children, friends, family and co-workers about the importance of grease disposal.