



City of Monroe Water Resources Department Questions & Answers About “Fats, Oils, and Grease”

Where does grease come from?

- Meat fats ● Lard ● Butter and margarine ● Cooking oil (including salad oil and marinades)
- Shortening ● Food scraps ● Baking goods ● Sauces ● Dairy products

What are the grease issues?

Grease being poured down the sink drain because the warm fats, oil, and greases are liquid and can be poured. It may not appear to be harmful but as the liquid cools, the grease solidifies and causes buildup inside the pipes, becoming a hardened mass. The buildup restricts the flow of sewage and clogs the pipes.



What are the implications?

- Raw sewage backing up into your home
- An unpleasant and expensive cleanup at your expense.
- Raw sewage overflowing into waterways, parks, yards and streets.
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms.
- Increased cost for local Water Resources Department, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

What can you do?

The best thing you can do is keep grease out of the sewer system in the first place.

- Never pour grease down the sink or into the toilet.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a disposable container or place in trash (after cooling).
- Do not put food scraps down the garbage disposal.
- Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids.

Who should I call if I see a sewer overflow?

Please call the City of Monroe Water Resources Department at (704) 282-4601.