

DEFEND YOUR DRAINS

FOG ALERT!

When fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) are poured down kitchen drains, they harden inside household pipes and public sewers, restricting the flow of wastewater.

These blockages are a leading cause of sewage backups in buildings, which result in high costs for cleanup and repairs. If FOG buildup gets bad enough, sewage can even overflow into yards, streets, and storm drains, contaminating waterways and causing public health hazards.

FOGs come from foods like:

- cooking oil
- meat
- butter
- margarine
- lard
- dairy products
- salad dressings
- sauces
- gravy
- mayonnaise
- peanut butter
- coffee grounds
- other food scraps



CAN THE GREASE

1. **Cool It:** Allow fats, oils, and grease (FOGs) to cool to a safe handling temperature after cooking.
2. **Can It:** Pour cooled FOGs into a sealable container, like a jar or can. Store the container in the refrigerator until it is full.
3. **Trash It:** Never put FOGs down sink drains or in-sink garbage disposals. Scrape food scraps into the compost or trash. Wipe up FOGs left on pans or dishes with a paper towel then discard in the trash. When your sealed FOG container is full, trash it.

WIPES CLOG PIPES

Wipes and cleaning cloths, even those labeled as “flushable”, don’t break down when flushed down the drain. Instead they clog home plumbing and the sewer system.

Only flush #1, #2, and toilet paper. Everything else goes in the trash!

SEWAGE BACKUPS

Sewage backups occur when the sewer system is blocked, broken, or overwhelmed by heavy rain. FOGs, wipes, hair, and other solid materials can also cause pipes to clog and backup in homes.

Sewage backups are dangerous and can put your health at risk. If you see sewage pooling in your home or building, immediately call our 24/7 Emergency Dispatch at [412-255-2423 \(Press 1\)](tel:412-255-2423). We will dispatch a crew to assess the situation, which includes determining if the problem is with the sewer main or lateral.

It is best to avoid contaminated areas until help arrives. If you do attempt to clean up a sewage backup in your home, wear protective clothing, boots, and gloves before handling raw sewage. More information is available at www.pgh2o.com/sewage-backups.

Reduce Water Down Your Drains, Especially When It Rains!

Using less water in your home during rain storms can reduce the risk of sewage backups. Less water down the drain means less sewage in combined sewer pipes, leaving more room for stormwater.

