

A Message from Schuyler's Sewer Liason, Don Sroka

Dear Sanitary Sewer Resident,

Did you know that pouring fats, oils, and grease down your drain can cause sewage backups?

Fats oils and grease, also known as FOG, are used in, or are byproducts of, cooking certain foods. When warm or hot FOG is often a liquid and may not seem like a big problem. However, after traveling down a sewer drain, these liquids cool and become solid, resulting in clogged pipes that can cause backups into your home or even your neighbors' homes.



Fog also contributes to sewage overflows into the Mohawk River. On an average day, the Oneida County Sewer District's (OCSD) Water Pollution Control Plant has sufficient capacity to treat residential waste water. But during heavy rainfalls and significant snowmelts, stormwater pushes our system beyond capacity — causing the untreated excess to overflow into the Mohawk River. FOG buildups in the system decrease capacity and aggravate this problem. But if we each take simple actions as outlined in Oneida County Sewer District's Operation Ripple Effect: FOG Program, we can make a big difference.

So how much FOG is OK to go down the drain? Very little; in fact the maximum concentration allowed by the Oneida County Sewer Use Ordinance is the equivalent of 1 teaspoon of vegetable oil in 12-13 gallons of water. So what do you do with the rest? Carefully pour warm (not hot!) FOG into jars, cans and/or other containers. Once cooled, dispose of the container in the trash, or drop it off — at no charge — to the Oneida Herkimer Solid Waste Authority's Utica Residential Convenience Station on Leland Ave. in Utica during normal business hours.

Here are some other facts and tips that may help you cut the FOG that goes down your drains:

- Common sources of FOG include cooking oil, meat fats, lard shortening, butter, margarine, cream-based sauces, salad dressing, mayonnaise, and dairy, products.
- Never pour grease, fats or oil down the sink or garbage disposal. Fatty or greasy food scraps in a garbage disposal still send FOG down the drain.
- Liquid cooking oil can be mixed with an absorbent material, such as coffee grounds or clean cat litter, then placed in a lidded container for disposal in your trash.
- For greasy dishes or surfaces, pour off the grease into a container as instructed above, and use a paper towel to dry wipe the remaining grease prior to washing.

For more information, visit sewerrehabocsd.org/FOG.

Thanks for doing your part to keep our sewers flowing smoothly!