



Photographer:
Gregory Guttadora, REHS, West Windsor Health Department
Juvenile Bald Eagle Over Mercer Lake, West Windsor Township
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TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS

Prevent Sewer Backups & Water Pollution

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflow results from sewer pipes blocked with grease. Grease enters the sewer from household drains and commercial sources.

WHERE DOES THE GREASE COME FROM?

A byproduct of cooking, grease comes from meat fats, lard, cooking oil, shortening, ghee, butter or margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products.

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the **KITCHEN SINK**. **Running hot water after dumping grease down the drain will not solve the problem.** Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes, both on your property and in the streets. Over time it can build up and block entire pipes or clog pump stations.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. Commercial products, such as detergents, that claim to dissolve grease may pass grease down the line to cause problems in other areas.

THE RESULTS CAN LEAD TO:

- raw sewage overflowing into homes;
- an expensive and unpleasant cleanup;
- raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets, or open waters such as streams and lakes;
- potential exposure from disease-causing organisms in sewage;
- an increase in operation and maintenance costs for your community.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

The easiest way to solve the problem is to keep grease out.

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Never put grease in the garbage disposals.
- Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.
- Scrape dishes and pans into the trash, not the sink.
- Correctly dispose of grease, oil, or fat in the trash.



Proper Disposal

1. Let it cool.
2. Pour grease into a container.
3. Wipe solidified grease from pans and utensils and place in your trash.
4. Dispose of cooled solidified grease, oil or fat into your trash.



- Spread the word to friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.



**West Windsor
Township**

**For more information, contact the
Department of Public Works at (609) 799-8370.**

**WEST WINDSOR HEALTH DEPARTMENT
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