

Residential Grease

Residents can help prevent pipe blockages and sewer overflows by keeping grease out of the sewer system. Sewer backups can cause damage to homes, health hazards and threaten the environment. Sewer pipes blocked by grease are an increasing common cause of overflows.

Where does grease come from?

Fats, Oils, and Grease are a natural consequence of cooking and can also occur naturally in many foods. Grease is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oils. It can be found in such items as:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Butter and margarine
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Food scraps
- Baking goods



What are the grease issues?

Grease is frequently poured down the sink drain because the warm oils 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.

The implications can be:

- Raw sewage backing up into your home.
- Increases the need to call for a plumber.
- An unpleasant and expensive cleanup at your expense.
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards and streets.
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms.
- Increased cost for the utilities departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers



What can you do?

The easiest 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
- Scrap grease and food scraps into a disposable container or place in trash can (after cooling).
- Do not put food scraps down the garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids.



What does a sewer overflow look like?



Who should I call if I see a sewer overflow?

Call the Town of North Wilkesboro at 667-7129 Monday – Friday between the hours of 8:00am – 5:00pm. After 5:00pm or on holidays call the North Wilkesboro Police Department at 838-3158.