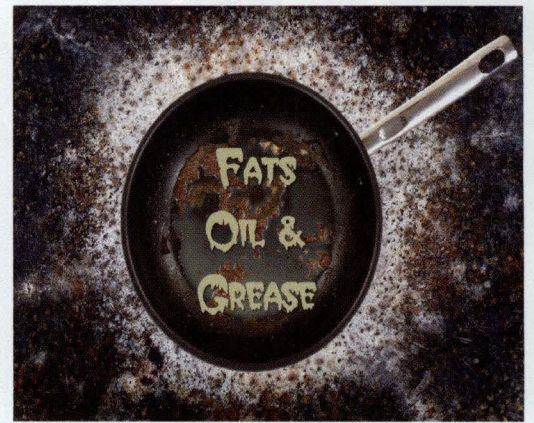


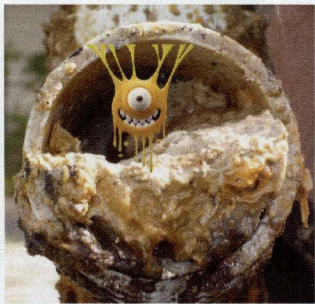


WHAT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN CAN COME BACK TO HAUNT YOU!

It is your turn to help Mom and Dad with the dinner dishes. It was a delicious meal, but when you see the pots and pans Mom used to make that scrumptious fried chicken, you see a nasty blob of cooking grease solidifying in the skillet. Yuck! How are you going to clean that up? If you don't want to even touch that greasy mess, imagine what it could do to the sink's drain pipe and on into the sewer! Double yuck!



Your common sense tells you that if you dump the leftover food pieces, oil and grease down the drain, chances are that it will cause a problem sooner or later...and it won't be pretty. That means that Mom will be on the warpath and your freedom could be in jeopardy!



Grease causes sewer blockages and overflows that can damage homes, the environment, and create health hazards, too. What if a blockage in the pipes resulting from your improper disposal of that cooking grease were to back up into your house...or a neighbor's house...or even out into the street? Oh no! Triple YUCK! And, horrors! What if the nasty, greasy, slimy glob were to end up in a neighborhood park? Or in a nearby stream or creek? What if....people knew it was *your* fault? Obviously, this isn't something you want to have any part of. So, here's how you can avoid that.



This "problem" even has a name -- **F.O.G.** No, not the kind you see on a dismal, dreary day. The acronym stands for **Fats, Oils, and Grease**, and it comes from such things as cooking oil, bacon grease, mayonnaise, poultry skin, and pasta. It can stagnate in underground plumbing lines and get even messier when joined by dinner roll scraps, gravy and mashed potatoes with a pond of butter on it. Then sometime later, when the meal is long forgotten, the sewer system becomes blocked sufficiently to cause a backup inside the house and the plumber is the only one who benefits from costly remedies and repairs. Think about it...the cooking items might have been part of a tasty dinner, but they glom together on the inside of sewer pipes and over time, they can coagulate into a complete blockage! Some people think that if they scrape this troublesome stuff into the garbage disposal -- and maybe add a little of that detergent that is advertised to dissolve fats and grease -- that will solve it. Nope! All that does is grind the food waste into smaller pieces, mix it with grease, and send them further down the line to cause problems elsewhere.



The easiest and most effective way to solve the **F.O.G.** problem is to keep grease out of the drains in the first place. **Here are some effective disposal tips:**

- Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash.
- To dispose of large amounts of oil or grease -- like from a deep fryer -- mix the liquid with some clay cat litter, a little at a time. When all the oil has been absorbed, pour the cat litter into a trash bag, seal the bag, then dispose of it in the regular trash.
- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- Wipe pots, pans, and dishes with dry paper towels before rinsing or washing them. Then throw away the paper towels.
- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts the fats, oils, and grease off the dishes and into the sewer pipes. Later, in the sewer, the hot water will cool, allowing the F.O.G. to clog the pipes.
- Don't use cloth towels or rags to scrape plates or to clean greasy dishware. The grease will end up in the sewer from the washing machine rinse water.



For more information about how you and your family can help stop F.O.G., visit www.sjra.net.