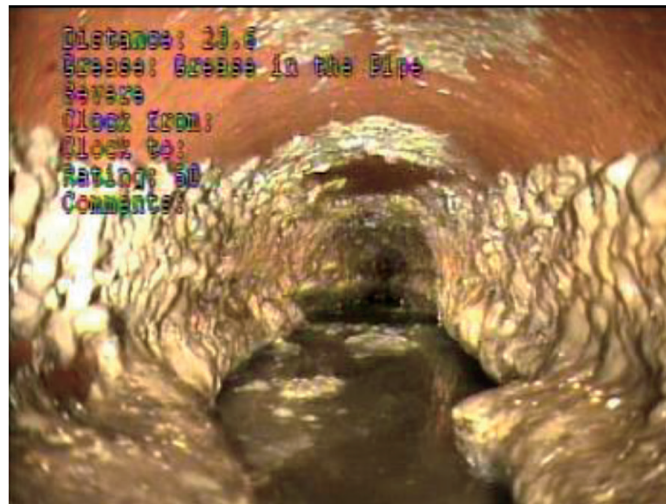


Where does FOG come from?

“Grease” is the common term for animal fats and vegetable oils. It is naturally occurring in many foods. It is used in many recipes and for frying food. Grease is a normal byproduct of cooking.

Common household sources of FOG include:

- Meats
- Lard, shortening
- Cooking oil
- Butter and margarine
- Milk, cream, ice cream
- Cheese, yogurt
- Baked goods
- Sauces
- Food scraps



This photo of the inside of a sewer pipe in Walla Walla shows what FOG buildup looks like. FOG reduces the diameter of the sewer pipe and can create blockages.

Results of sewer backups

- Raw sewage in your home or your neighbor's
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- Expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by the homeowner
- Increased operation and maintenance costs for the City, which could lead to higher sewer bills for the customer



55 E. Moore St.
Walla Walla, WA 99362
509.524.4714
environmental@wallawallawa.gov

A WONDERFUL PLACE TO **LIVE WORK PLAY**



FOG

Fat, Oil, and Grease – FOG
– can clog your pipes and
lead to sewage overflows.

wallawallawa.gov



FOG clogs

1 Can it

■ Never pour oil or grease down sink drains or into toilets.



2 Cool it

■ Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage. You can mix oil with an absorbent material like kitty litter or coffee grounds before throwing it in the garbage.

■ Scrape grease and food scraps from pots, pans, plates and cooking utensils into the garbage before washing.



3 Cap it

■ Do not use extremely hot water and detergents to dissolve the grease – it only moves the problem down the line.

■ Look for phosphate-free soaps.

■ Limit use of the garbage disposal to dispose of food wastes.

Fat, oil and grease aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline

FOG is not just a problem in the City of Walla Walla's sewer system. FOG can block sewer lines inside the house and lateral lines that

lead to the City's sewer mains. Some blockages can be removed, but others are so solid that the section of pipe must be replaced. The results of a blocked line are always unpleasant and expensive for the homeowner.

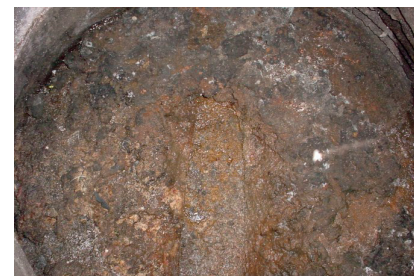


This is the Inside of a sewer line with soap bubbles floating on the wastewater and FOG hanging from the ceiling of the pipe. The diameter of the sewer pipe is reduced, creating a potential site for a blockage.

Just like in our arteries, the problem with FOG in the sewer is that it restricts the lines until it forms a solid plug. FOG is 8 to 12% lighter than water and does not mix with water.

This causes it to float on top of the wastewater in the sewer lines. The FOG may be in liquid form if it is washed down the drain with hot water, but as the water cools the FOG changes to a solid form. This solid FOG is lumpy and sticky. It has a natural tendency to stick to anything that it comes in contact with, which usually means the sewer lines. Once a sewer line has a restriction due to FOG, it can very

easily become completely blocked by collecting FOG or anything else that is washed down the drain or flushed down the toilet.



Looking down from the street, this is the view of the bottom of a sewer manhole that has a solid layer of FOG buildup.

The best way to deal with the FOG problem is to keep our sewer fat-free. Never pour fat, oil, and grease down the drain.



This is the manhole after it has been cleaned. Now you can see the channels that the sewage flows in.

To address this problem, the City of Walla Walla is working with both private residence and commercial business owners alike. Commercial

FOG contributors have either a grease-trap or a grease-interceptor to allow the FOG and solids to settle out before their kitchen waste is discharged to the sewer system. In addition, the City has a preventative maintenance program and regularly cleans all sewer mains.

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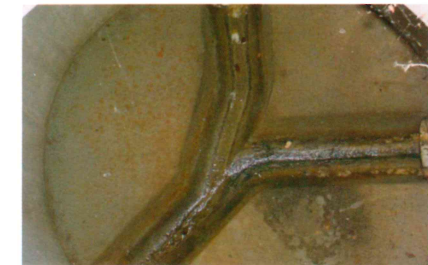
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