

Cooking Oil and Grease Can Damage Your Home!

Pouring cooking oil or grease down your drains will eventually clog your home's sewer pipe, causing sewage to back up in your sinks, bathtubs, and toilets. Clogged sewer pipes can cause:

- **Raw sewage overflowing into your home** or your neighbor's home; or raw sewage overflowing into yards, streets, parks, schoolyards, and public areas.
- Contact with **disease-causing organisms**.
- **Expensive repair costs for you** if the clog occurs in your residential sewer pipes; and increased costs for the City of Allen's Water and Sewer Department—causing higher water bills for Allen residents.

Household grease usually comes from the following foods: **Dairy products, shortening and lard, cooking oil, butter and margarine, and sauces.** Grease solidifies on the inside of your pipes when you pour grease down the drain—even if you wash it down with hot water. Grease also sticks to the larger City sewer lines under the streets, causing the same problem there.

Garbage disposals don't keep grease out of your pipes—they only chop the food into small pieces, leaving the grease. Drain cleaners can dissolve grease in your drain but send the grease further down where a new clog can develop.

How to Dispose of Cooking Oil and Grease

- Do **NOT** pour oil or grease down your sink drains, tubs, showers, or toilets. Instead, collect used cooking oil and grease in a **rigid plastic or metal container** with a **screw-top lid**.
 - When your container is full, do these things if you have **less than one gallon** of oil and grease:
 1. Put the lid on tightly.
 2. Put the container in a plastic bag and throw the container away with your regular trash.
 - If you have **more than one gallon** of oil and grease, put the lid on tightly and call **214-509-4500** for a household hazardous waste (HHW) pick up.
- Use the garbage disposal as little as possible. Instead, put food scraps in the trash.