

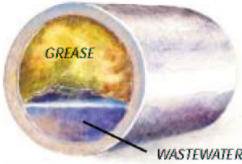


The Sewer Line

News from your Sewer Utility

Fats, Oils, and Grease - a Sewer's Worst Nightmare

Grease, oils, and fats aren't just bad for your arteries; they're also bad for your home's sewer line. Pierce County's Sewer Utility has over 650 miles of service lines or "arteries" conveying wastewater to the Chambers Creek Regional Wastewater Treatment Plant. What many customers may not realize is that these "arteries" are under constant attack by greases, oils, fats, from restaurants, apartment developments, and individual homes.



Where does the grease come from?

Cooking oils, shortening, butter and margarine, food scraps, and dairy products used to make your daily meals, also from washing pots and pans, and using a dishwasher or garbage disposal. Grease sticks to the insides of all of these items, and running hot water down the sink just pushes the grease just a little further about twenty-five feet on average before it cools and sticks to the inside pipe walls.

Potential homeowner problems from clogged pipes:

- Overflow of raw sewage.
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms.
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup and repair bill.

What you can do to help...

There's always going to be a little bit of grease coming off of plates and cooking utensils, it can't be avoided, but you can reduce the amount of grease going into your lines by using these simple guidelines:

- Scrape greases and oils into a disposal container – never pour it down the drain.
- Remove remaining grease with a paper towel, and dispose of it in a waste basket.
- Scrape plates into the garbage can before washing.
- Place greasy food scraps in the trash instead of the garbage disposal.
- Throw coffee grounds into your compost heap or into the garbage can.
- Keep strainers in your sink to catch solids.

