

Fats, Oils, and Greases in your Garbage Disposal

Your garbage disposal may be strong enough to handle that turkey carcass but your drain may complain. Fats, oils, and grease don't just clog our arteries, they clog our sewers too. Keeping fat, grease, and oil out of the drain is one of the best ways to avoid a sewer backup in your home. Many backups result from accumulated grease buildup along the walls of your sewer line. Over time, grease buildup will block water flow in your pipes.

Fats, oils, and grease are found in many of the foods we eat every day - foods such as meat, fish, butter, cooking oil, gravy, sauces, mayonnaise, salad dressing, and cheese. Keep these items out of the drain or garbage disposal.

The Metropolitan St. Louis Sewer District reminds you of these easy steps to prevent grease buildup in your pipes:

- ✓ Wipe cooled pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.
- ✓ Remove fatty foods from plates and the kitchen sink and place them in the trash, not down the drain.
- ✓ Can it, cool it, and trash it. Pour all cooled cooking fats that will harden into a container such as an empty pet food, vegetable, or coffee can. Cool them and throw them in the trash.
- ✓ Warson Woods City Hall generally has some disposable lids, courtesy of MSD, that fit a variety of tin cans. Simply re-use an old soup, vegetable, or other common canned good metal/ tin can, pour your grease in the can, and use the lid to seal it. Dispose of this in your regular trash when it is full.

Help prevent drain and sewer clogs by keeping drains fat-free.