



Keep FOG (Eats, Oils, & Grease) Out of Drains



Cold weather ushers in the holiday season and also cooking and baking season. Grease from roasting a bird in the oven, left over gravy, even oil from the deep fat fryer to cook those wings on game day can wreak havoc on drains and pipes if they are not disposed of properly and responsibly.

There are many items that can cause a buildup of FOG in the pipes of your home: salad dressing, dairy products, cooking oil, cooking grease, lard, butter/margarine, food particles, food residue and other solids from cooking and cleaning.

Here are some easy hints to use this cooking and baking season to keep your drains free and clear and the water pollution control facilities running smoothly.

- To drain grease from ground beef, bacon, or other meats; make a bowl out of aluminum foil and drain the grease into the foil (use an actual bowl to form it, if needed). Pinch the top of the foil with the liquid grease in it and wait until it coagulates (hardens), then simply throw it away.
- Another idea to drain the grease from meats AND recycle glass jars or tin cans: carefully pour the cooled grease into a jar or can and let it cool completely to a solid form and simply throw away once the jar is full. For the tin can, throw away once the can is full if you do not have a reusable lid for it.
- Scrape all food items into the garbage and NOT in the garbage disposal or toilet.
- Wipe greasy pans and dishes out with a paper towel or coffee filter before washing in the sink or dishwasher.
- Collect cooled FOG in a coffee can or other container with a lid. Keep in freezer until it is full then throw out.
- Other containers that can be used to collect FOG (once it has cooled):
 - Coffee Bags
 - Margarine and whipped cream-type containers
 - Pet Treat Bags
 - To-Go Coffee Cups
 - Any other disposable containers



The City of Ames Water & Pollution Control Department urges all holiday hosts, chefs, and helpers to help keep FOG out of the drains this holiday season and year 'round. Anyone with questions may call:

515-239-5150 Water Plant

515-232-7423 Wastewater Plant (Water Pollution Control)

515-239-5137 Resource Recovery

For more information, visit:

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