

## Avoid costly system repairs

Clogged pipes can happen anywhere in the system – on your property or in the city’s sewer mains. Depending on where the clog is located, the resident or property owner may be responsible for the cost of cleaning or repairing the line, as well as the cost of damages caused by a backup into the home or building.



## Sources of FOG

Traditionally, grease is thought of as bacon grease and oil used for frying, but fats, oils and grease can be found in other food items that may surprise you, including:

- Dairy products
- Gravy and sauces
- Mayonnaise
- Salad dressing
- Baked goods
- Frosting
- Milk and cream
- Lard and shortening
- Butter and margarine



## The ugly side of greasy sewers

When an obstruction blocks the flow of wastewater within a pipe, the wastewater – and everything that comes with it – will find someplace else to go...backing up through a manhole, sewer clean out, toilet, drain or even your sink.



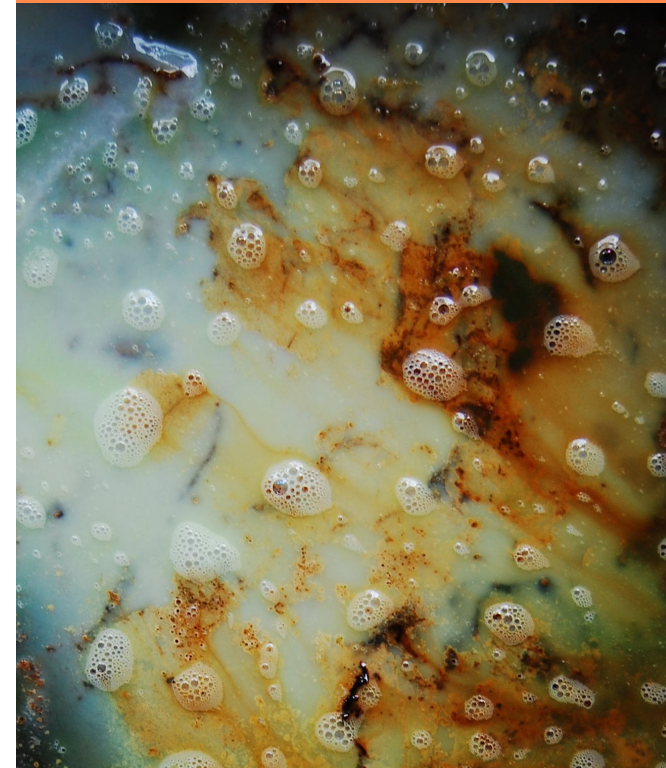
**Don't let this happen to your pipes!**

**Scottsdale Water**  
Pretreatment Program  
[ScottsdaleAZ.gov/Water](http://ScottsdaleAZ.gov/Water)  
480-312-8732



# FOG CLOGS

## Keep Fats, Oils and Grease from Clogging Your Pipes



**SCOTTSDALE**  
**WATER**

**Water Sustainability through  
Stewardship, Innovation and People**

# Fats, Oils and Grease

Over time, fats, oils and grease (FOG) from everyday cooking can clog the pipes in your home and in the public sewer system. FOG and food particles poured down the sink solidify in your pipes, eventually causing blockages that can send untreated wastewater backwards – out of manholes or back into your house! Overflows can create serious public health hazards, damage property, cause odor issues and often require expensive repairs.



Sanitary sewer overflow caused by FOG

## The Greasy Facts!

### Hot water does not wash away FOG



Hot water and soap may wash fats, oils and grease out of sight, but they don't wash them away entirely. Hot FOG will eventually cool and solidify further down your pipes, where it can still clog sewer lines and create sewage backups in your home or street.

### Helpful tips to prevent FOG from entering the drain:

- Pour cooking oils and grease into a small container with absorbent material, such as a paper towel or coffee grounds, and dispose of it in the trash.
- Scrape food from dishes into the trash (not the garbage disposal) and wipe down greasy plates, pots and pans with a paper towel before washing.
- Prevent food from entering your sewer by covering your kitchen sink drain with a strainer.



### Garbage disposals make FOG worse



Garbage disposals only grind up the greasy, fatty foods into smaller particles, which can make it even easier for FOG to cling to pipes.

### Residential FOG is the leading cause of sanitary sewer overflows



The EPA estimates that 65 percent of all sewer spills are caused by fats, oils and grease. The majority of all FOG-related sewer backups and spills originate in residential areas.