

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) can cause damage to municipal sewers lines, and also damage your septic system.



Why Is FOG A Problem?

- Sewer pipes can become clogged by FOG and cause backups into basements, roadways, and bodies of water. Sewer backups create health hazards, can result in expensive property damage, and threaten the environment.
- FOG is problematic for septic systems because it clings to surfaces with uncanny tenacity. FOG can also disrupt bacterial life, and the only way FOG can leave the system is if it is pumped out.

Where Does FOG Come From?

- Meat Fats (bacon, sausage, etc.)
- Butter or Margarine
- Milk, Ice Cream, Yogurt
- Cream Based Sauces
- Salad dressing, Cheese, Mayonnaise

What Can I Do To Prevent Sewer Backups and Avoid Damaging My Septic System?

- **NEVER** pour grease down sink drains or toilets.
- Minimize the use of your garbage disposal, Foods containing fog can get caught in the plumbing.
- Dispose of cooled cooking fats, oils, and grease into a waxed container such as a milk carton or container with a lid.
- **DO NOT** use the toilet for disposal of food scraps, sanitary items, rags, cloths, or towels.

Did You Know?

- Liquid dish detergents that claim to dissolve grease may actually pass the grease down the sewer line. It is important to wipe grease off dishes and cooking utensils with a paper towel before putting them in the sink or dishwasher.



FOG Costs You And The City!

- Pouring a little bit of bacon grease down the drain or putting meat through your garbage disposal may not seem like a big deal, over time these contributions lead to clogs and blockages throughout the City of Westfield sewer system.
- The Cost of cleaning, flushing, treatments, maintenance, and grease removal from the City sewer lines and pump systems are passed on to the sewer customers in the form of higher sewer rates.
- Sewage backups and overflows can negatively impact the environment; property owners are responsible for the clean-up costs of their lateral blockage.

FOG Facts, Did You Know?

- FOG does not mix with water. Just 1 liter of dairy cream has enough fat content to cover the surface of an entire Olympic swimming pool.
- FOG is highly acidic and has corrosive properties that can damage your plumbing and sewer components.
- At high temperatures FOG is a liquid, but when it cools, it becomes a solid mass.
- Many of us rely on our sewer and septic systems everyday without even realizing it, but just because they are out of site doesn't mean they should be out of mind.

Be **Proactive** not **Reactive**



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Westfield Health Department

For More Information

Visit:

[https://cleanwaterservices.org/
BusinessAndIndustry/
FatsOilsGreaseProgram](https://cleanwaterservices.org/BusinessAndIndustry/FatsOilsGreaseProgram)

or

Contact:

Westfield Health

Department

413-572-6210

59 Court Street

Westfield, MA



The Westfield Health Department would like to announce the adoption of a new Board of Health regulation regarding Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG). This regulation will make sure food establishments have the proper grease removal devices on site. This will limit the amount of grease introduced to the sewer system by commercial properties throughout the city.

This pamphlet provides information how each home can benefit from reducing FOG wastes. Homes that are not connected to the city sewer and rely on septic systems should also be aware of the effects FOG has on your system, because they can be damaging, and costly.