

# Keep Our Sewers Fat-Free!



## For Restaurant and Building Owners

To keep your grease separation device working correctly, make sure it is properly:

- **Designed**—it should be correctly sized and manufactured for your facility's waste
- **Installed**—the device must be well-vented, level, etc.
- **Maintained**—clean and service the trap or interceptor frequently.

*Remember, never put solids into your grease trap or interceptor and keep records of all maintenance!*

## For More Information

Contact the Industrial Pretreatment section at (336) 883-3090 with any questions you may have.

You can also visit the Water Environment Federation's web site at [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org) for more general information on FOG.

## No FOG, No Clog!

### What Is FOG?

F.O.G. stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease. FOG comes from:

- Meat
- Lard
- Vegetable oils
- Shortening
- Butter or margarine
- Food scraps
- Baked goods
- Dairy products
- Sauces

### Why Is FOG a Problem?

When fats, oils, and grease get into the sewer system, they stick to the inside of pipes. Over time, FOG will build up in the pipe and create a blockage. Here are some possible results of a FOG clog:

- Raw sewage overflowing into your home, yard, or street
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms, including *E. coli* and *Giardia*<sup>1</sup>.
- Expensive clean-up procedures
- Increased sewer bills due to higher operation and maintenance costs to the sewer department
- Damage to the environment, including algae blooms and fish kills

## What Can You Do to Help?

### GOOD IDEAS

- Wipe out pots and pans with a paper towel after cooking and throw the paper towel in the garbage.
- Scrape grease and food scraps into a can or jar, then throw it in the garbage when it's full.
- Put a strainer in the sink drain to catch food scraps, then throw the scraps in the garbage.
- Spread the word! Speak to your friends and neighbors about FOG.



### NO-NOS

- Never pour grease or food scraps down the sink or into the toilet.
- Don't think a garbage disposal will get rid of FOG—disposals just move grease down the line and spread the problem!
- Don't rely on detergents that claim to dissolve grease. These products will also spread FOG through the sewer lines.

*The best way to keep FOG from creating an overflow is to not let it get into the sewer in the first place!*

1. Indiana State Department of Health. "Diseases Involving Sewage." Accessed May 24, 2012. [www.in.gov/isdh/22963.htm](http://www.in.gov/isdh/22963.htm). Other information from FAT-FREE SEWERS, Water Environment Federation, 2000.