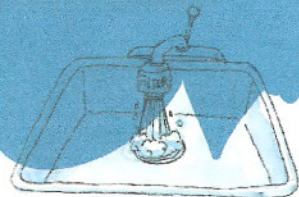


# Cooking Grease In Your Pipes & Drains *CLOGS* Sewer Mains







**C**ooking grease is the culprit of most clogs in residential sewer pipelines in Vallecitos Water District. It sticks to the inside of pipelines, builds up and eventually forms complete blockages, which causes costly and environmentally damaging sewer spills.

All grease - including frying oil, salad oil, meat drippings, bacon fat and greasy leftovers - should not be poured down your drain. They need to be disposed of properly to prevent pipeline clogs that lead to plumbing problems at your home and sewer spills in the community. Sometimes, these spills even end up polluting our oceans, rivers, streams and beaches.

The good news is that this messy and expensive problem can be easily avoided.

Grease blockages can be greatly reduced simply by not using the kitchen sink or garbage disposal when throwing out food scraps or rinsing oily pots and pans.

***Incorporate these other guidelines into your daily routine as well and help keep your sewer pipelines free from blockages:***

-  *Pour all cooking oil and grease into an old milk carton, frozen juice container or other non-recyclable package and throw it in the garbage.*
-  *Wipe greasy pots and pans with a disposable cloth before washing or putting them in the dishwasher.*
-  *Thoroughly scrape food from your plates and pans into the garbage can before washing.*
-  *Throw away fat trimmings from meat in the trash rather than the garbage disposal.*

## **DID YOU KNOW...**

... Garbage disposals also use a large amount of water. Reducing or eliminating the use of the disposal will help you conserve water.

... Grease-clogged pipelines can cause costly home plumbing bills. Grease should never be poured down the drain, but if small amounts accidentally get into your drain, flush it immediately with cold water. Pouring hot water and detergent only break up grease temporarily.

## **REPORT SPILLS!**

If you see, hear or smell something you think might be a sewer spill, report it immediately. Vallecitos Water District can be reached during normal business hours at 760.744.0460, after hours or holidays call 760.744.0461. Be prepared to describe the location and nature of the problem.