

How can you have fat-free sewers?

Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your pipes, and KUB's collection system.

- **Never pour grease material down sink drains or toilets.**
- **Scrape grease material and food scraps from all cookware and dishware into a can or the trash for disposal.**
- **Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain strainers into the trash for disposal.**
- **Don't put grease or greasy food in your home garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.**
- **Wipe cookware and dishware prior to washing. Don't rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease: They may just pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.**
- **Clean kitchen exhaust system filters routinely.**
- **Talk with your friends and neighbors about the grease problem so that the community is aware of the risk.**
- **Call KUB if you have any questions about sewer system operations and maintenance.**

For more information about sanitary sewer systems, contact KUB or the following:

Water Environment Federation

601 Wythe Street
Alexandria, VA 22314-1994
Phone: 703-684-2400
Fax: 703-684-2492
Web site: www.wef.org

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Wastewater Management
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20460
Web site: www.epa.gov/owm

To anonymously report illegal dumping, illicit discharges, or surface water pollution in ditches, creeks, or the storm drain system, contact

City of Knoxville Water Quality Hotline

865-215-4147



P.O. Box 59017
Knoxville, TN 37950-9017
865-524-2911
www.kub.org

The information in this brochure was adapted with permission from the Water Environment Federation's copyrighted 1999 brochure Fat-Free Sewers: How to Prevent Fat, Oils, and Greases from Damaging Your Home and the Environment. It is for general information only and is not intended to be a standard set by WEF.

FAT-FREE SEWERS



**Fat, Oil, and Grease.
They're not just bad for your
arteries and waistline:
They're bad for your home's
plumbing and KUB's sewers.**



Fat, Oil, and Grease . . .

Are the No. 1 cause of sewer backups in homes and food service establishments.

Why are fat, oil, and grease a problem?

Even a small amount of grease in sink drains can cause serious blockages in home plumbing or, even worse, a sewer overflow in your home or yard. The substances also cause clogging in KUB's wastewater collection system.

Grease in a warm liquid may not appear harmful. But as the liquid cools, it congeals and sediment forms on the interior of pipes and treatment equipment. This hardened grease can block a sewer line completely and may shut down KUB's treatment plant units.

Where is grease produced?

Restaurants, condominiums, apartment buildings, homes, schools, churches, food-processing plants, shopping malls, hospitals, hotels, and many more locations all produce grease.

Grease is a by-product of cooking and is found in things like these:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Food scraps
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products

Grease is often washed down the kitchen sink and into the plumbing system. The grease can build up over time and block your drains or sewer pipes.



Never pour grease down sink drains. Scrape grease and food scraps from all cookware and dishes into a can or the trash for disposal.



The easiest way to prevent grease-related overflows of sewage is to keep fat, oil, and grease out of the sewer system.

What problems are caused by grease?

- Sanitary sewer overflows in neighborhood parks, yards, and streets or backups into your home.
- Rancid odors.
- Expensive cleanup, repair, and replacement of damaged property.
- Potential contact with microorganisms that can cause illness.
- Higher operating and maintenance costs potentially resulting in higher sewer bills for you.

Why should you care?

Grease-related problems can cause sewage backups and overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to your health and the environment. That is why KUB wants to help consumers stop the problems associated with grease before they occur.