

FATS, OILS, AND GREASES AREN'T JUST BAD FOR ARTERIES AND WAISTLINES; THEY'RE BAD FOR SEWERS, TOO.

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. A common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses. Over time, it can build up and cause sewer blockages, which eventually result in sewer backups that can overflow onto streets and into homes, damaging property and the environment.

WHERE DOES THE GREASE COME FROM

Grease is a byproduct of cooking that comes from meat fats, lard, oil, shortening, butter, margarine, food scraps, baked goods, sauces, and dairy products. When washed down the sink, grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the street).

Bar Harbor Wastewater Division
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Town of Bar Harbor

WASTEWATER DIVISION

HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS AND OVERFLOWS



TEL: 207-288-4028

HELP PREVENT SEWER BACKUPS AND OVERFLOWS

WATCH WHAT YOU FLUSH

Certain items should not be disposed of in the toilet. Our toilets are designed for water, human waste, toilet paper and **nothing**



FLUSHABLE WIPES AND FLOSS BEING PULLED FROM EQUIPMENT IN BAR HARBOR

else! Other items flushed down the toilet can cause blockages and damage to the sewer system and equipment. Improper disposal of the following items has caused backups and overflows. They should be disposed of in your trash can, **NOT** in the toilet:

- Fabric, plastic, disposable cleaning wipes, toxic substances, or any non-biodegradable product.
- Paint, petrol, pesticides, chemicals, oil, or rubber.
- Dental Floss, sanitary pads, tampons, cotton swabs, incontinence pads, surgical bandages, pantyhose, condoms, cigarette butts, etc.
- Cooking oil, grease, food scraps, tea leaves, or coffee grounds.
- Needles, sharps, and other biohazards can contribute to blockages and harm maintenance crews.
- Garbage. Place a garbage can in your bathroom and send garbage to the landfill.

By disposing of these items properly you will help the Bar Harbor Wastewater Division protect water quality, maintain the sewer system and reduce backups and overflows.

HOW CAN I PROTECT MY PROPERTY FROM SEWER BACKUPS?

- Never pour food greases down sink drains or into toilets because it can harden and cause blockages in sewer pipes over time. Scrape grease into a can to cool before disposing in the trash.
- Do not use the toilet to dispose of garbage or wipes.
- Install and maintain a backflow valve if needed. If your property's lowest drain elevation is below the rim (typically the street) elevation of the nearest "upstream" sewer manhole cover, your property may be at risk of a backup. The installation of a backflow valve is recommended. Remember, once a backflow valve is installed only remove the valve for preventative maintenance. If the valve is removed it will not protect your home in the event of a sewer backup.

These suggestions can save you money too! Most sewer backups occur between the City's sewer main and the house, where the property owner is

responsible for correcting the problem. Avoiding blockages means avoiding plumbing bills.

DO'S AND DON'TS OF SANITARY SEWER SYSTEMS

- DO:** Scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash before washing.
- DO:** Pour fats, oils and grease into a container such as an empty jar or coffee can. Once the materials have cooled and solidified and the container is full, secure the lid and place it in the trash.
- DO:** Use sink strainers to catch food items, then empty the strainer into the trash.
- DO:** Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. Disposable diapers, condoms and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system.
- DO NOT:** Remove backflow devices, manhole covers, caps or any other sewer related device. Leave that to the professionals!
- DO NOT:** Use the toilet as a wastebasket.
- DO NOT:** Pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.