



THE HIDDEN SPRINGS SEWER IS ON A LOW-FAT DIET

Please keep fats, oils and greases (FOG) out of your kitchen sink!

When poured down the drain, FOG can build up in pipes and equipment and cause significant problems in the sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. Problems such as sewer line blockages that cause sewer overflows are the result of improper disposal of FOG. Sewer overflows cause environmental health hazards and property damage leading to increased operation and maintenance costs which show up as higher sewer bills.

What is FOG?

FOG refers to Fats, Oil, and Grease from food preparation and kitchen clean up. FOG is found in:

- Meat fats
- Food scraps
- Sauces
- Lard/Shortening
- Baking goods
- Dairy products
- Butter/Margarine
- Cooking oil

Why should I care about FOG?

Residential households contribute FOG build-up in the sewer lines because of the amount of grease washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Sewer lines in older neighborhoods are most at risk of sewer backup if residents don't properly dispose of FOG.

What can I do?

The easiest way to solve the grease problem is to keep FOG out of the sewer system in the first place and follow the easy disposal tips listed below:

- Never pour grease, fats, or oil down the sink or garbage disposal.
- Pour FOG into jars, cans, and plastic tubs (Careful, the liquid may be hot!) or "Fat Trapper" container. Let contents cool and solidify. When the container is full, throw away with your trash.
- Mix cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds, place in a lidded container for disposal with your trash.
- For greasy pans, pour off the grease into a container mentioned above, and use a paper towel to wipe out the remaining grease in the pan prior to washing.

As a resident of Hidden Springs and Cartwright Ranch, there is a lot you can do to help protect the sewer system!



WHAT'S FLUSHABLE AND WHAT'S NOT!

What's Flushable?

- Pee
- Poop
- Toilet paper

What's NOT Flushable?

The following items don't break down like toilet paper and clog household pipes, sewer lift station pumps, and cause sewer backups onto streets, businesses, and homes.

- Flushable wipes – Though advertised as "safe for septic systems and sewer," flushable wipes do cause many problems for wastewater treatment operators.
- Diapers (cloth, disposable, "flushable")
- Facial tissues, cotton balls, swabs and pads
- Cleaning wipes of ANY kind (baby wipes, disinfectant wipes, moist wipes, etc.)
- Toilet bowl scrub pads
- Napkins (paper or cloth), paper towels
- Dental floss
- Hair
- Sanitary napkins, tampons, condoms, or any non-organic material
- Wash cloths, towels, rags (any cloth item)
- Kitty litter



Clogged pipes and pumps require significant maintenance to ensure the pumps are working properly. If they can't be repaired, they must be replaced. The solution to this expensive problem is to make sure that only toilet paper is flushed down the toilet!

The video at <https://youtu.be/SLTVqkXVvNk> demonstrates how products that are advertised as flushable, aren't flushable.

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