

South Durango Sanitation District

GOT GREASE?

Don't pour it down the drain!

Some people think that by adding hot water from the kitchen faucet, the grease will just disappear. There is some truth to this. The grease will break down with heat from the hot water, but when it cools down it will solidify in your private sewer service, the South Durango Sanitation District sewer collection system, or both.

Sewer pipes are sized to accommodate the anticipated maximum flows that can be delivered through the pipe. As fats, oils, and grease (also known as "FOG" throughout the sewer industry) cools underground in the sewer pipes, it attaches itself to the pipe walls and lessens the capacity for maximum flow levels.

Eventually, the grease can build up enough to nearly or completely block off all sewer flow in an area near you. When that happens, a back-up in your home plumbing can occur or cause a blockage in the District sewer system that can result in a sewer spill from one of hundreds of sewer manholes the District maintains.



Sewer spills could result in discharging untreated sewer into storm drains, rivers, creeks, and waterways in your neighborhood. Sewer spills impact the environment and the habitat that depends upon clean water to survive.

There is hope and an easy way to reduce and eliminate the problems that fats, oils, and grease can cause in the sewer system! It's as easy as this:

- Use a standard sized food can with the lid completely removed to pour your household cooking grease into.
- As it cools, it too will start to solidify in the can, much like it would have done had it been washed or flushed down the plumbing drains.
- When the can gets close to being full, discard the cooled grease can into your garbage.

This action alone will help to reduce sewer blockages, sewer spills, help protect our environment, and reduce extra maintenance costs to keep the sewer lines free of grease deposits. You "can" make a difference!