

## REPORTING SEWER OVERFLOWS

Report any suspected sewer overflows to Virginia American Water at 1-703-590-4495.

## TIPS FOR BUSINESS OWNERS

- Never dispose of or pour grease into sinks, toilets or down drains.
- Allow the grease to cool and use a rubber scraper to remove the fat, oil and grease from cookware, plates, utensils and cooking surfaces. Then place the grease in a sealed container and dispose of it in the trash. Check with your waste hauler to see if they provide containers for this purpose.
- Install an appropriately-sized grease trap(s) or a grease interceptor. These units allow oil to float to the top and be retained, while the remainder of the wastewater passes through.
- Maintain grease traps and interceptors according to the manufacturer's recommended instructions. Have it cleaned and serviced on a frequent basis to ensure that the grease that accumulates does not hinder the unit's operation.
- Never put solids in grease traps or interceptors.



**VIRGINIA  
AMERICAN WATER**

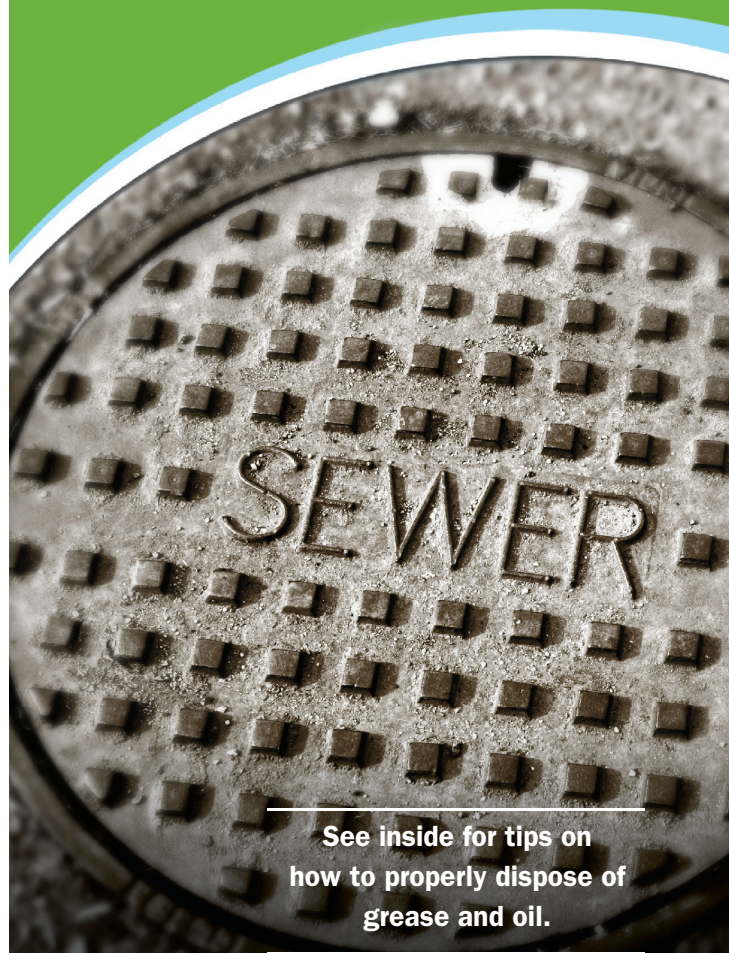
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# HELP Prevent Sewer Overflows



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See inside for tips on  
how to properly dispose of  
grease and oil.



## **Grease and oil poured down the drain can lead to blockages in sewer pipes. These blockages can be avoided through the proper disposal of grease, fat and oil.**

Did you know that pouring grease, fat or oil down the drain can lead to sewer overflows and backups? When washed down the drain, grease and oil can adhere to the insides of the pipes that carry the wastewater from homes and businesses to the sewer treatment facility.

Over time, this build up of grease can restrict the flow of wastewater, or worse yet, block the homeowners' or utility's sewer pipes. These blockages can lead to sewage overflows or backups in homes and businesses. It can also have an adverse affect on the environment if the overflow enters our rivers, lakes and streams.

The good news is that blockages caused by grease are preventable. Customers can do their part to reduce grease and oil that enters the sewer system by being mindful of what they do in their own kitchens. As homeowners, we can properly dispose of grease and oil by not washing it down the drain.

### **THESE TIPS CAN SAVE YOU MONEY!**

**Many sewer blockages occur between the house or business and the utility's sewer main, where the property owner is responsible for correcting the problem. Avoiding blockages could mean avoiding an unnecessary plumbing bill.**

### **USE THE TRASH CAN FOR TRASH!**

Another tip to help prevent sewer overflows, blockages and backups is to dispose of trash in the trash can instead of flushing it down the drain. Flushing baby wipes and paper towels down the toilet has become an issue in some areas. These should be tossed in the trash!



### **TIPS FOR HOME OWNERS**

- Never pour grease into sinks, toilets or down drains.
- Allow the grease to cool and use a rubber scraper to remove the fat, oil and grease from cookware, plates, utensils and cooking surfaces. Then place the grease in a sealed container and dispose of it in the trash.
- Install baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and empty them into the trash.
- Please keep in mind, garbage disposals do not prevent grease from washing down the drain. Also, detergents that claim to dissolve grease may pass it down the line and cause problems in other parts of the wastewater system.
- Share this information with your friends and neighbors.