

ORANGE COUNTY SANITATION DISTRICT  
**Answers to questions about...**

# Fats, Oils, and Grease

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) is responsible for safely collecting, treating, and disposing around 190 million gallons per day of wastewater, generated by more than 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County. OC San owns and operates approximately 388 miles of regional sewer lines and two plants that treat wastewater from residential, commercial, and industrial sources.

## What is FOG?

FOG stands for fats, oils, and grease. FOG is a mixture of fats, oils, and grease from various cooking ingredients, such as:

- Butter and margarine
- Lard
- Meat fat
- Dairy products
- Food scraps
- Baked goods



## How does FOG enter the sewers?

FOG enters the sewers often unintentionally. For example, FOG enters our sewers when a greasy pan is washed.

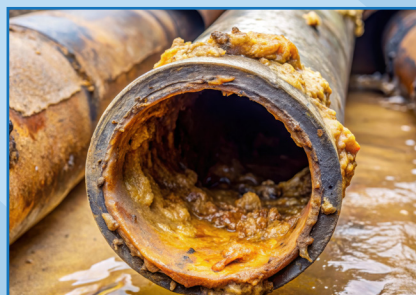
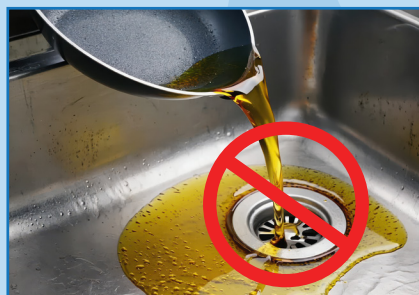
## Why is FOG a problem?

FOG hardens and blocks your pipes which can result in backups. Over time this can harm OC San's pipes, pumps, and equipment and cause significant problems to our sewer collection system and wastewater reclamation plants. Some of the problems FOG can cause are sewer line blockages, which can lead to sewer overflows (spills) that cause environmental and public health hazards. Sewer overflows contain disease-causing bacteria and viruses that can make their way to rivers, lakes, and beaches.

## How to minimize FOG discharge?

**Can it. Cool it. Throw it away.** The best way to manage FOG is to keep it out of the sewer system! Below are some easy steps to keep FOG out:

- **Can the FOG.** Collect fats, oils, and grease in a disposable container, like a metal can, and mix it with absorbent trash such as coffee grounds, paper towels, or kitty litter. Discard container into the appropriate trash can.
- **Install drain screens in kitchen sinks.** Drain screens collect food waste that can be tossed into the trash.
- **Properly dispose of food waste.** All food waste should be disposed of directly into the appropriate trash can, and not into sinks or down a drain. This reduces the FOG discharged to the sewer.
- **Recycle FOG.** There are facilities available that collect household FOG. Do some research to see if there is a facility near you.



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