

Answers to questions about...

Fats, Oils, and Grease

The Orange County Sanitation District (OC San) is a public agency that provides wastewater collection, treatment, and recycling services for approximately 2.6 million people in central and northwest Orange County. OC San has 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

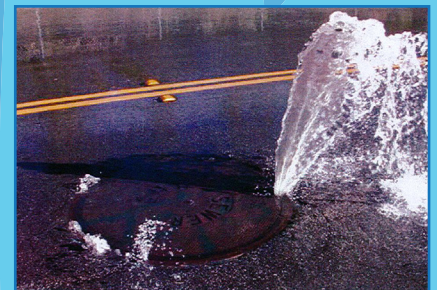
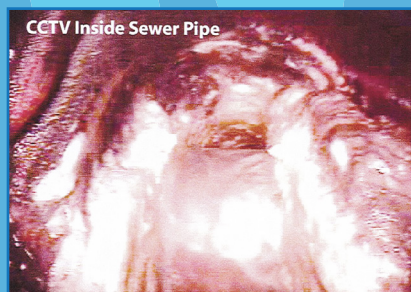


How does FOG enter the sewers?

FOG enters the sewers often unintentionally. For example, FOG enters our sewers when a pan that is used to cook bacon is washed.

Why is Fog a problem?

When poured down the drain, FOG can build up over time in pipes, pumps, and equipment, which can cause significant problems to Orange County Sanitation District's (OC San) sewer collection system and wastewater treatment plant. 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:

Recycle FOG. There are facilities available that collect household FOG. Do some research to see if there is a facility near you.

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.

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.

OC San is responsible for safely collecting, treating, and disposing more than 180 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 wastewater treatment plants in Fountain Valley and Huntington Beach.

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