



## What are the consequences?

Fats, Oils and Grease can cause serious problems for your sanitary sewer collection systems. Sewer pipes blocked by grease are an increasingly common cause of sewage overflows. Grease gets into the sanitary sewer from household drains. Sewer backups can cause damage to homes, health hazards and threaten the environment.

## Where does grease come from?

Grease is a common by-product of cooking and is the term used for animal fats and vegetable oils. It can be found in things such as:

- ◆ Meat fats
- ◆ Lard
- ◆ Cooking Oil
- ◆ Butter and margarine
- ◆ Shortening
- ◆ Food scraps
- ◆ Baking goods

Grease that is poured down the sink drain is often a warm liquid. It may not appear harmful but as the liquid cools, the grease solidifies and causes buildup inside the pipes, becoming a hardened mass. The buildup restricts the flow of sewage and clogs the pipes.

The consequences of pouring grease down the drain can be:

- ◆ Raw sewage backing up into your home.
- ◆ An unpleasant and costly cleanup at the home owner's expense.
- ◆ Raw sewage is environmentally harmful if it is overflowing into parks, yards, streets and local waterways and can cause environmental damage.
- ◆ Potential contact with disease causing organisms.
- ◆ Increased cost for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

Each year, considerable time and money is spent cleaning clogged pipes throughout the City of Barrie due to grease in the municipal sanitary sewer system.

## What can you do?

Here are some easy steps that you can follow to help keep grease out of the sanitary sewer system:

- ◆ **NEVER** pour grease down the sink drain or into the toilet.
- ◆ Residential grease and food scraps can be disposed of in the City of Barrie's Curbside Organics Collection Program (green bin).
- ◆ Use a strainer in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids.
- ◆ Inform your friends and neighbours about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.
- ◆ Place grease into a glass jar or can and store it under your kitchen sink. The grease will then solidify and can be placed into the garbage or taken to the City of Barrie's Household Hazardous Waste Depot for proper disposal.



### Did You Know...

30 to 40% of sewage overflows are caused by grease blockages?

