



Fats, Oils & Grease in sewers



December 2024

Christmas is a time for merriment and good food but what you do with the waste produced from cooking that food can have an impact on the sewer network and the people that run it.

Did you know?

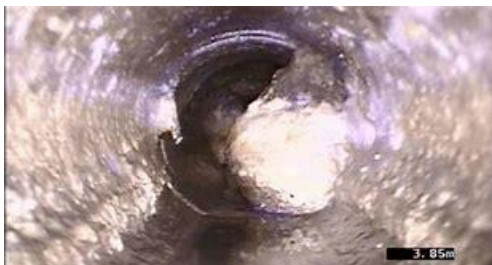
The water industry clear over 300,000 sewer blockages every year and around 70% of them are caused by putting the wrong items down the sink or toilet. To unblock and clean the sewer network it costs the industry over £100 million every year, a cost which is passed on to you.

Help us to help you - Keep the sewers flowing by following our top tips:



Don't pour fats, oils and greases down the sink or the toilet – even the tiniest amount can cause problems. They may be in liquid form going down, but they quickly solidify when they meet the cold sewer walls (even if you pour hot water down after). The fats stick to the side of the sewer forming a concrete-like solid that attracts other debris, eventually causing a blockage, sometimes known as a 'Fatberg'.

Top tip: Wait for fat to cool after cooking and pour it in to an empty tub or can. When it's full, empty the contents into the bin and reuse the container.



Only human waste, toilet tissue and a small amount of household cleaning products should be flushed down the toilet. **Don't flush:**

- sanitary products
- kitchen roll
- cleansing wipes
- baby and facial wipes
- nappies
- cotton buds

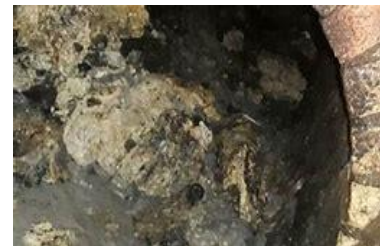


Top tip: Instead use nappy or sanitary bags then put them in the bin.

There are a lot of simple things you can do in the kitchen to help reduce the chances of this happening to you.

For example, here are **6 quick tips to think about now:**

- **Washing up** – don't wash cooking fats, oils or greases down the sink.
- **The sink** – always use a sink strainer and scrape any leftover food into the bin.
- **Floors** – don't sweep rubbish into the drains, sweep it up and put it in the bin.
- **Leftovers** – collect leftover oil and fat in an air tight container to prevent bad smells.
- **Waste oil** - arrange for your leftover oil to be collected by a licensed contractor.
- **Fat traps** are cleaned and maintained .



What do we want you to do?

- Fats, oils and greases should never be put down the sink
- Only ever flush pee, poo and toilet paper down the loo
- let the fat cool and turn solid,
 - scrape it up,
 - wrap it up
 - then put it in the bin.

Merry Christmas