

Residential Grease Educational Program

Purpose: To educate the citizens of Hickory on the impacts which grease poses to OUR sewer system and the benefits of addressing it before introduction.

How does grease get in the sewer system?

Cooking grease, fats from meat, shortening, butter, food scraps (especially garbage disposals) and dairy products that are allowed to go into a sink drain. These greases then collect on the inside of the pipes of the sewer system slowly causing them to close and then finally stop up completely.

What can YOU, the citizens of Hickory, do to help?

-Do not put grease into sink drains. Instead have a scrap container or simply put the grease into the trash. You could also remove food waste with “dry” methods like wiping with a paper towel.

-Put strainers in the sink to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash.

What are the benefits to the customers?

- 1- Sewer spills cost everyone. Sewer spills must be corrected by the dispatching of a maintenance crew with specialized equipment to remove the cause of the blockage. This is both expensive and unpleasant and the customers of this system pay for all operational expenses. Fewer maintenance calls results in lower operational expense and stable rates
- 2- Sewer overflows will cause sewage to spill into streets, creeks and streams, parks and yards. These spills are unsightly and potentially have a negative impact on the environment.
- 3- Sewer spills can be very expensive! Backups into homes can be costly and very unpleasant to clean for both the resident and the City. If the blockage is on the customers' side or can be tracked back to a specific customer, then it would be that customers' responsibility to fund or directly cleanup all damages.
- 4- Keep sewer rates from increasing excessively by stabilizing maintenance requirements and creating predictable maintenance needs.

Lets compare the sewer system to the cardiopulmonary system of the human body. The Waste Water Treatment Plant acts as the heart, everything eventually ends up going through it. The main trunk lines act as arteries that carry the sewer from the laterals of the homes like the veins and vessels of the human body. Buildup of fats, oils and grease constrict the flow and eventually cause blockages, resulting in a heart attack, or in this case a sewer overflow. We are mindful of the things that we put in OUR body, so let be mindful of the things that we put in OUR sewer system.

