

Grease Is Harmful To Sewers



The build up of grease is the main cause of sewer backups and overflows. Most grease enters the sewer system through

the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of the sewer lines and decreases the carrying capacity of the sewers. Low concentrations of grease are also problems over time.

Operations & Maintenance Crews use a specially designed water jet truck to dislodge grease and other debris



from sewer lines. Debris then floats to a manhole where it is trapped and removed by the City's Vactor truck.

Help prevent the occurrence of improper objects into sewer mains. The majority of back-



ups are caused by debris, regardless of how many times the sewer lines are cleaned.

Keep Fats, Oils & Grease Out

Fats, oils and grease cause most sewer line blockages. Sewer blockages are not only dirty; they can lead to serious health hazards.

Raw sewage can back up into homes and businesses and flow onto streets and parking lots when sewer lines are blocked. Clean ups are difficult, costly and time-consuming.

Fats, oils and grease include meats, sauces, gravies, salad dressings, deep fried dishes, cookies, pastries, cheese, butter and other food products. Place all food scraps and solids into the garbage instead of the sink. Do the same with gravies, salad dressings and similar liquids that contain fats, oils and grease.

Fats, oils and grease can also cause deterioration of sewer pipes and adhere to Utility equipment. It is expensive to remove this material from sewage collection systems and wastewater treatment facilities, but even more expensive to replace. These additional maintenance and replacement costs are passed on to you and other utility customers.

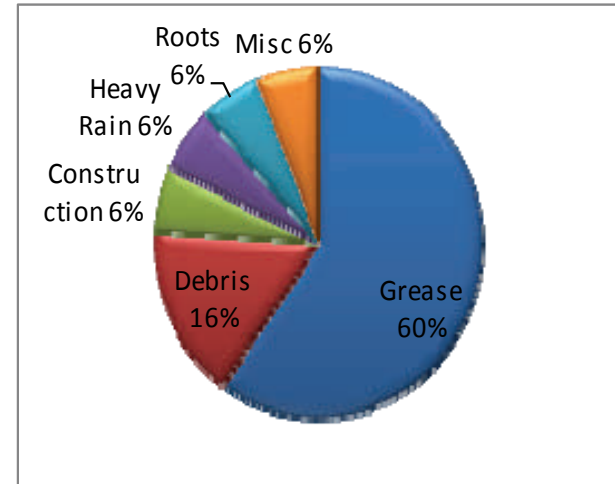


City of Petersburg Wastewater Utility

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Causes of Residential Sewer Blockages How You Can Help



City of Petersburg Wastewater Utility



Prevent unlawful wastewater discharges into our environment

Help Prevent Sanitary Sewer Line Blockages

Do:

- Help avoid drain clogs by not letting hair build up in the shower, bath tub and wash basin drains.
- Put food waste from plates and pans into the garbage instead of putting food waste into a garbage disposal.
- Scrape and/or dry wipe grease from dishes and pans into the garbage before placing them in the sink or dishwasher.
- Pour cooking fat/grease into a small container to solidify or absorb with kitty litter before placing it into the garbage. Empty concentrated juice containers work well.
- Unclog drains naturally. Pour 1/4 cup of baking soda down the drain followed by 1/2 cup of white vinegar. Wait a few minutes and follow this with boiling water. Pour boiling water down the drains weekly to prevent clogs.
- Empty washing machine lint into a garbage bag to avoid the discharge of lint into the sewer line.

Condominium and Town Homes Associations should contract with a licensed and bonded line cleaner to perform routine preventive maintenance on sewer collector lines in the street and check all water fixtures, sinks, toilets, showers and outdoor faucets for leaks. Leaks that remain undetected and are not repaired can overload the sewer collection system and may also increase water and sewer rates.

Do Not:

- Do not pour grease of any kind down sinks, garbage disposals, or other drains. Grease is the major contributor of sewer blockages.
- Do not flush diapers, sanitary napkins, newspapers, soiled rags, or paper towels down toilets.
- Do not put used oil, oil-based paints, solvents, diesel fuel, gasoline or other chemicals down sewer lines, storm drains or into drainage ditches.

Helpful Tips

- Recycle used oil and antifreeze. Service stations and recycling centers will take used oil and old antifreeze.
- Call the Sanitation Department, 772-3228, for guidance and proper disposal information.
- Always read a product's Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) for proper disposal guidance.
- Just one quart of oil has the potential to contaminate two million gallons of water!
- Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.
- Call the Wastewater Department for assistance, 772-3787. There are fines and penalties for illegal and improper discharges.

Frequently Asked Questions

Is my home or building connected to the City's sanitary sewer system?

- Call Public Works at 772-4430 Mon-Fri, 8 am - 4:30 pm.

Who do I call if my sewer backs up?

- Call Public Works at 772-4430 Mon-Fri, 8 am - 4:30 pm. After normal business hours call the Police Department at 772-3838.

Who pays for the damage, cleanup and repairs?

- The building owner or insurance company provided you have a sewer backup policy.
- The City has a policy to assist you with restoring service and/or the clean up if the blockage occurs in the main line. If the blockage is in the service line, on private property, it's the homeowner's responsibility.
- The City does not pay for repairs or damages caused by improper discharge. If blockages are caused by improper discharges into the system, the City can recover costs for repairs and/or damages from the responsible party.
- Wise use of the sewer system and some simple preventive maintenance will help safeguard the system and reduce costs for everyone.

Prevent Sewage Overflows
Keep Grease Out of Sewer Lines