

Town of Oak Island FOG Program

Fats, Oils and Grease



Why are Fats, Oil and Grease a problem?

Grease hardens at room temperature and can cause blockages in home plumbing pipes and even overflows in your home or yard. These substances also cause back-ups in the Public Utilities collections system. Sewer back-ups cause damage, create health hazards and threaten the natural environment.

Where does grease come from?

Restaurants, apartment buildings, schools, homes, churches, condominiums, shopping centers, hospitals, food processing stores, hotels and anywhere cooking occurs. Grease is a by-product of cooking and comes from things like:

- meat fats
- shortening
- lard
- baking goods
- butter and margarine
- cooking oil
- dairy products
- food scraps
- sauces

Why should you care?

Grease related problems can cause sewage backups and overflows that are messy, costly and a potential threat to your health and the environment. That is why we want to help customers stop problems associated with grease before they occur.

PLEASE

- Never pour grease down the drain or toilet.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from dishes and cookware into trash or garbage can.
- Empty sink strainer into trash or garbage can.
- Don't put grease into your garbage disposal.
- Wipe cookware and dishware into trash can prior to washing.
- Clean kitchen exhaust filters routinely.
- Talk with friends and neighbors about the grease problem so that the community is aware of the risk.

ABOUT YOUR SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM

Many of you may see us walking the streets and yards and wonder, "What are they doing?" The Town has two different types of Collection Systems, Vacuum and Gravity. If you are on the vacuum system, you may have a vacuum pit in your lawn. Inside that pit, there is a vacuum valve. Twice a year the valve is inspected and evaluated to ensure it is operating properly. The vacuum is generated from our vacuum stations. The vacuum stations are equipped with three vacuum pumps and two sewage pumps. The pumps are monitored and inspected on a daily basis. When a vacuum valve fires, it makes a distinct sound through the vent pipe for three to four seconds. If you hear a suction noise coming from the vent pipe at your home for a long period of time, the valve is probably misfiring. A crew will be called in and will walk from vacuum pit to vacuum pit looking for the misfiring valve. Please, if you hear this sound, call us at (910) 201-8007 or after hours at (910) 278-5595, and let us know as soon as possible. Your call is greatly appreciated.

If you are on the gravity system you will see control panels which are located within the right of ways and are somewhat distinctive because they are equipped with a red light horn and an informational sign. The red light is a warning light so if you see the red light flashing or hear an alarm from the control panel, we ask that you call us immediately. Why? Because that alarm means it needs immediate attention, and you can be of great help to us by calling (910) 201-8007 or after hours at (910) 278-5595.

If you are walking around and see anything such as a broken cleanout cap in the right of way or a manhole lid not on properly or if something doesn't look right or if you hear a funny sound please give us a call.

Town of Oak Island
Public Utilities Department
4601 E. Oak Island Dr.
Oak Island, NC 28465
(910) 201-8007
www.oakislandnc.com

