

# WALWORTH COUNTY METROPOLITAN SEWERAGE DISTRICT

## HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE

### REDUCING FATS, OILS, AND GREASE IN OUR SEWERS



#### **What is FOG?**

Fats, oils, and grease are found in food scraps, meat fats, lard, oil, margarine, butter, sauces, and dairy products. FOG is commonly associated with fried foods and baked goods prepared at home or in a food establishment. When FOG is not disposed of properly, it can clog your home's plumbing as well as the municipal sewer lines.

#### **How Does Walworth County Metropolitan Sewerage District Address FOG?**

Section 3.5 of the Pretreatment Ordinance states: *"No person shall discharge into and Municipal Wastewater Collection Facility any liquid wastes containing fat, oil, grease, flammable wastes, sand, or other harmful wastes..."*

#### **Why Should FOG Matter to You?**

When washed down the drain, FOG builds up over time and can cause a blockage in your drains, pipes, and in the sanitary sewers. Blockages can lead to increased repair and maintenance costs with your homes plumbing, the sewers, the wastewater treatment plant, and public and private property.

- In your neighborhood: Plumbing and sewer backups can result in property damage and various code violations. These hazards can also create hazardous and unhealthy conditions.
- Environment: Clogged sewers can cause raw sewage overflows, which release untreated sewage into our rivers and streams. Sewer overflows make waterways unsafe for recreation, and they threaten fish and other aquatic life that live in our rivers and streams.
- Quality of Life: Sewer backups and clogs can attract insects and vermin, resulting in undesirable and unhealthy living conditions.



#### **How Can You Reduce FOG In Our Sewers?**

- Pour cooking fat or grease into a small container. Once it cools or solidifies, place it in the garbage.
- Don't dispose of FOG in garbage disposals, sinks, toilets, or floor drains.
- Dispose of greasy solid waste in the garbage.
- Wipe pots and pans with a paper towel before washing to minimize the amount of FOG and solids washed down the drain.
- Do not put cooking oil, oil-based paints, motor oil, solvents, or other chemicals down the drain or into storm sewers. Large quantities of home cooking oil from fryers should be poured back into the original oil container. The items listed above can be disposed of at your local Household Hazardous Waste Events. For more information, please visit: <https://www.co.walworth.wi.us> and search "Solid Waste Recycling".



#### **Help Spread the Word**

You can help educate others about FOG by sharing this information with your friends and neighbors. WalCoMet is working hard to improve Walworth County's water quality by informing residents and businesses of ways to reduce water pollution, sewer backups, and improve the quality of life for those who live and work here.