



BURKE COUNTY Oil & Grease Awareness

GREASE AWARENESS CAMPAIGN

Burke County customers expect their sanitary sewage to be delivered to the wastewater treatment plant without sewer backups, blockages, and overflows.

Backups, blockages, and overflows can create serious problems, foul odors, property damage, and pollution of rivers and streams

DO

Did you know that most sanitary sewer backups occur between your home and the sewer main? You can prevent a costly and unsanitary overflow by following a few simple steps:

- Scrape the excess grease in a waste container and dispose of it in the garbage
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid wastes, or start a compost pile; promote use of scraping ware prior to washing
- Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste.



DO NOT...



**DO NOT POUR
GREASE
FATS
OR
COOKING OILS
DOWN THE DRAIN**

**DO NOT
USE THE TOILET
AS A WASTE BASKET**

**DO NOT
USE THE SEWER AS A
MEANS OF DISPOSING
FOOD SCRAPS**

FACTS

Yearly, there are more than 15,000 sewer overflows in North Carolina. Many of these overflows are directly related to the improper disposal of oil and grease in kitchen drains. Grease congeals on sewer pipes, which causes clogging. These clogged sewer pipes may allow wastewater to flow back into homes or businesses or directly into waterways.

The Burke County General Services Department makes every effort to protect our citizens, the environment, and wastewater treatment plants. By working together we can reduce sanitary sewer overflows caused by oil and grease.

Burke County Sanitary Sewer System Residential Grease Educational Program

Purpose: Fats, oil and grease introduced into a sanitary sewer system thru household food preparation and disposal can create blockages in the system and cause raw sewer to spill into adjacent creeks, streams and lakes. The purpose of this Residential Grease Educational Program is to inform the citizens of Burke County about the effects fats, oil and grease (FOG) can have on the Burke County Sanitary Sewer System.

How does grease get into the sewer system? Cooking grease, fats from meat, shortening, butter, food scraps (especially from garbage disposals) and dairy products that are disposed of down the kitchen sink are the primary ways that household fats, oil and grease (FOG) is introduced into a sewer system. When these items are flushed down the drain, the fats, oil and greases (FOG) begin to collect on the inside of your house plumbing and eventually to the insides of the County's sewer system. Over time, grease can continue to accumulate and eventually causes blockages in the sewer system, which in turn, leads to sewer system overflows.

What can the citizens and customers of the Burke County Sanitary Sewer System do to help? First and most importantly, DO NOT dispose of household fats, oil and grease into your sink drains. Instead, use a scrap container to put the fats, oil and grease (FOG) in and then put the container in the trash. Setting the container to the side and allowing it to cool first (assuming you are disposing of hot grease) will aid in the disposal. Secondly, you can use strainers in the sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash.

What are the benefits to the citizens and customers of the Burke County Sanitary Sewer System?

- Sewer spills and overflows cost everyone! Once the blockages form and the spills occur, utility crews must be dispatched to eliminate the cause of the blockage and clean up the sewer spill. While maintenance on the sewer system is normal, unplanned emergency calls are costly and disrupt planned service. Fewer emergency maintenance calls results in overall lower operational costs.
- Creeks, streams and lakes are negatively affected by sewer spills and overflows and detract from the beauty of our outdoors.
- Sewer blockages and overflows can be expensive! Sewer backups into homes can be costly and are certainly unpleasant. If the blockage is on the customer's side of the connection or can be traced to a specific customer, then that customer would be responsible for the clean-up costs.

By doing your part to eliminate disposal of household fats, oil and grease into the sanitary sewer system, we all help keep emergency, unplanned service calls from occurring and help minimize the costs of these emergency calls from affecting sewer rates.

Please call the Burke County General Services Department at 828.764.9060 if you have comments or questions concerning Residential Fats, Oil and Grease.