

## How can you have fat-free sewers?

Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your pipes, and KUB's collection system.

- **Never pour grease material down sink drains or toilets.**
- **Scrape grease material and food scraps from all cookware and dishware into a can or the trash for disposal.**
- **Use strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain strainers into the trash for disposal.**
- **Don't put grease or greasy food in your home garbage disposal. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.**
- **Wipe cookware and dishware prior to washing. Don't rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease: They may just pass it down the line and cause problems in other areas.**
- **Clean kitchen exhaust system filters routinely.**
- **Talk with your friends and neighbors about the grease problem so that the community is aware of the risk.**
- **Call KUB if you have any questions about sewer system operations and maintenance.**

For more information about sanitary sewer systems, contact KUB or the following:

### Water Environment Federation

601 Wythe Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314-1994  
Phone: 703-684-2400  
Fax: 703-684-2492  
Web site: [www.wef.org](http://www.wef.org)

### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Office of Wastewater Management  
Ariel Rios Building  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460  
Web site: [www.epa.gov/owm](http://www.epa.gov/owm)

To anonymously report illegal dumping, illicit discharges, or surface water pollution in ditches, creeks, or the storm drain system, contact

### City of Knoxville Water Quality Hotline

865-215-4147



P.O. Box 59017  
Knoxville, TN 37950-9017  
865-524-2911  
[www.kub.org](http://www.kub.org)

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# FAT-FREE SEWERS



**Fat, Oil, and Grease.  
They're not just bad for your  
arteries and waistline:  
They're bad for your home's  
plumbing and KUB's sewers.**



# Fat, Oil, and Grease . . .

***Are the No. 1 cause of sewer backups in homes and food service establishments.***

## Why are fat, oil, and grease a problem?

Even a small amount of grease in sink drains can cause serious blockages in home plumbing or, even worse, a sewer overflow in your home or yard. The substances also cause clogging in KUB's wastewater collection system.

Grease in a warm liquid may not appear harmful. But as the liquid cools, it congeals and sediment forms on the interior of pipes and treatment equipment. This hardened grease can block a sewer line completely and may shut down KUB's treatment plant units.

## Where is grease produced?

Restaurants, condominiums, apartment buildings, homes, schools, churches, food-processing plants, shopping malls, hospitals, hotels, and many more locations all produce grease.

Grease is a by-product of cooking and is found in things like these:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Food scraps
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products

Grease is often washed down the kitchen sink and into the plumbing system. The grease can build up over time and block your drains or sewer pipes.



*Never pour grease down sink drains. Scrape grease and food scraps from all cookware and dishes into a can or the trash for disposal.*



**The easiest way to prevent grease-related overflows of sewage is to keep fat, oil, and grease out of the sewer system.**

## What problems are caused by grease?

- Sanitary sewer overflows in neighborhood parks, yards, and streets or backups into your home.
- Rancid odors.
- Expensive cleanup, repair, and replacement of damaged property.
- Potential contact with microorganisms that can cause illness.
- Higher operating and maintenance costs potentially resulting in higher sewer bills for you.

## 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 KUB wants to help consumers stop the problems associated with grease before they occur.