

## FATS, OILS AND GREASE FACT SHEET

- The Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Program is designed to provide you with the tools and knowledge to help prevent clogged pipes at your home or business or sewer backups also known as sanitary sewer overflows (SSO).
- Some common FOG found in kitchens includes cooking oils, condiments such as salad dressings and sandwich spreads, meat juices and fat. When FOG is poured down the drain and garbage disposals, it can cause blockages that can cause the sewer to back up into your home or business through sinks, drains and toilets.
- Every day, the City of Madera Wastewater Treatment Plant receives millions of gallons of wastewater that must be treated to a level that is safe for environmental reuse. The more food, chemicals and solid waste put down the drain, the more expensive it is to maintain the sewer lines clean and to treat the water, a cost that could be passed to the customer.
- The City of Madera Public Works Department has released recommendations [Brochures available at Public Works] to follow for both residents and the food service industry when depositing byproducts of cooked meals. The most important of these recommendations is to never put fats, oils or greases down the drain.
- To avoid sewage blockage and increased treatment costs, the city recommends putting kitchen greases in a jar and disposing of them in the trash. In addition, leftover food should never be put down the garbage disposal. Any waste that can be thrown in the garbage should always be put in the trash.
- Even the smallest amount of fat, oil and grease will solidify and stick to sewer lines. This sticky film catches food and other solid debris washed down the sewer lines. Over time, the debris builds up until the water is completely blocked and sewage backups.
- Sewage backups can cause overflows inside homes and into the streets. Sewer overflow can create serious public health hazards and damage property. Often when an overflow occurs, the homeowner is financially responsible for clean up and sewer maintenance problems from their home to the City's main line.

Remember, "SCRAPE IT, DON'T GRIND IT" to avoid costly sewer blockages repairs and clean ups. Do your part to maintain sewer lines grease free.

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