

## **F.O.G. Management Program**

The City of Sarnia's Sewer Use By-law Number 4 of 1993 prohibits the discharge of sewage containing more than 100 mg/L of fats, oils and grease of animal or vegetable origin. However, despite this regulation, grease accumulation in the sanitary sewer collection system remains a problem. The City is introducing a F.O.G. program as a solution to begin to rectify this problem.

The F.O.G. Management Program is an educational tool, which includes the distribution of an introduction letter and a Grease Trap/Grease Interceptor survey to all restaurants and food handling facilities. This letter identifies the need for the program and requests the owner's cooperation in completion of the survey attached. This survey will educate and assist the property owner's by identifying the need for installation and continual maintenance of their grease traps/grease interceptors, as well as proper handling and disposal methods for their fats, oils, and grease. After the surveys are completed and submitted to the City, the City will work with these facilities to identify possible problems and help by promoting and supporting solutions.

The program will also focus on helping homeowners establish preventative practices for sewer blockage issues when dealing with fats, oils and grease.

## **F.O.G. - Fats, Oils and Grease**

Did you know that what you put down your drain could potentially lead to your basement flooding? What you put down your drain may cause blockages in your plumbing. This includes; food scraps, dirt, fat or grease. When you allow these types of substances to drain from your property down into the sewer system over time, fats, oils and grease (F.O.G.), along with debris, can slowly build up and clog your plumbing and sewers. Once the grease and the water cool it begins to solidify and deposits along the sides of the pipes; blocking the pipe over time. When the sewer line is blocked there is no place for the wastewater to go except back into your home or business.

### **Where do fat, oil, and grease come from?**

Most fat, oil and grease is a result of cooking, and can be found in meats, fats, lards, cooking oil, shortening, butter and margarine, creamy sauces,

gravy, soups, food scraps, baking goods, sauces, salad dressings, and dairy products.

### **What can you as a business to help prevent sewer system blockages?**

- ✓ Wipe grease from pots and pans
- ✓ Use a strainer in sinks to stop food from entering drain
- ✓ Recycle used oil
- ✓ Train employees
- ✓ Scrape food scraps and grease into garbage
- ✓ Check your grease trap/grease interceptor often
- ✓ Set up a maintenance schedule for your grease trap/grease interceptor
- ✓ Avoid pouring grease down the drains or toilets
- ✓ Avoid using degreasers, emulsifiers or hot water to dissolve grease
- ✓ Avoid pouring grease straight into garbage dumpster

### **What can you as a home owner to help prevent sewer system blockages?**

- ✓ Wipe grease from pots and pans
- ✓ Use a strainer in sinks to stop food from entering drain
- ✓ Recycle used oil
- ✓ Place grease from cooking into a jar or can and once solidified dispose of in the garbage
- ✓ Don't drain turkey drippings or gravy down the drain or toilet

### **Remember:**

- **Don't** pour fat, oil or grease down sinks, drains or toilets!
- **Don't** run hot water over dishes, pans, fryers or griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

Pollution Prevention is the most cost effective and sustainable method to deal with plugged sewers and raw sewage overflows in your neighbourhood. Your sink is not a garbage disposal. Your cooperation adds up to a significant and measurable impact. Talk to your neighbours and other business owners to encourage them to follow these preventative practices.

For further information on the F.O.G. Management Program please email [fogprogram@sarnia.ca](mailto:fogprogram@sarnia.ca)