



KEEP YOUR HOLIDAYS FULL OF FAMILY, FOOD AND THANKFULNESS!

This is why you should NEVER pour cooking oil and grease down any drain:

Pouring cooking oil or grease down the drain sticks to the insides of the wastewater pipes, and can cause sewage back-ups, sanitary sewer overflows and very costly repairs. Sewage overflows may cause a threat to public health and the environment.

Why are cooking oils and grease a problem for wastewater pipes?

Fat, cooking oil, and grease are only partially soluble in water and are not compatible with wastewater pipes. If poured down the drain, these substances thicken, coagulate, and stick to the pipes, forming gooey-gross deposits that grow each time greasy waste enters the pipes. Whether these deposits form in the homeowner's wastewater pipes or the District's sewer lines, the end result is a clogged pipe and costly repairs. These blockages may also be accompanied by foul odors, significant property damage, and harm the environment.

What is the difference between oil and grease?

The terms are often used interchangeably, but they are very different substances. Oil, such as vegetable or olive oil, is liquid and never turns into a solid. Grease is the solid residue leftover in the cooled pan after frying meat, such as bacon.

Why are oils that do not solidify a problem?

Many oils actually do solidify at lower temperatures and therefore clog the drainage system. Even if oils don't solidify they often bind to other forms of fats and grease.

What are the common mistakes people make when disposing of cooking oils and grease?

When many people are finished cooking, they tend to dump leftover cooking oil, grease, and/or food scraps down the sink and turn on the garbage disposal. Another common mistake is rinsing dishes in the sink with hot water to remove the grease residue left on plates. Hot water may serve only to push the potential clog further down the pipe, often meaning that the eventual blockage may be even more costly to repair.

How should I dispose of cooking oil and grease?

- Collect small quantities of cooking oil or grease in a coffee can, empty milk carton, or similar container (preferably with a lid so it doesn't pour out); optionally, it can be mixed with kitty litter, and doubled bagged; chill grease in the fridge if you need to get it to harden up and toss it in the trash.
- Compost your non-greasy food scraps and toss the rest in the garbage. Put greasy food scraps in the trash.
- Use a paper towel to wipe grease from pots, pans, plates, and utensils prior to washing.

MYTHS VS: FACTS ABOUT DRAINS AND DISPOSALS

MYTH: Fruit peels and rinds are okay, they make it smell better. **FACT:** No, these bad boys don't break down easy. **COMPOST OR GARBAGE**

MYTH: Potatoes, rice, pasta and beans, of course they are okay. **FACT:** No, they turn into a pasty substance that can clog up the drain very fast. **COMPOST OR GARBAGE**

MYTH: My great aunt Trudy said that putting egg shells in the disposal sharpens the blades. **FACT:** This is FALSE and an old wives' tale. The membrane layers of eggshells can wrap around the shredder ring and cause damage to the disposal and the sand like consistency of egg shells can cause the pipes to clog. **COMPOST OR GARBAGE**

MYTH: Uncle Ben told me putting coffee grounds down the sink each day is "good" for the plumbing. **FACT:** NO! Never put coffee grounds down the sink. Nothing causes more blockages than coffee grounds and greases. **COMPOST OR GARBAGE**

MYTH: It's okay to flush grease down the toilet, just don't put it down the sink. **FACT: FALSE!** Flushing grease down the toilet just creates build-up in the toilet drain.

Once grease is deposited in any pipe, it DOES NOT go away, it builds up over time.



MEGAMYTHS

It's ok -- just run the hot water.
(That would be a NO!)

Just add a little dish soap! That will do it!
(Nope!)

Run the garbage disposal.
(Won't help.)

It's less than a cup of grease, fat, or cooking oil, it won't hurt a thing.
(Even a little grease, fat, or cooking oil can clog your drain.)

IT'S NEVER OK
TO POUR GREASE, FAT, OR COOKING OIL DOWN THE DRAIN! POUR YOUR GREASE, FAT & USED COOKING OIL INTO A SEALABLE CONTAINER AND THROW IT AWAY.