



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Pouring Grease Down Your Drain Can Lead to Very Unhappy Holidays

CITY OF SAN DIEGO OFFERS CRUCIAL COOKING ADVICE TO AVOID SEWAGE BLOCKAGES THAT RESULT IN EXPENSIVE REPAIRS

SAN DIEGO – The last thing anyone wants to deal with during the holidays is a clogged sewer line, which is why the City of San Diego is reminding people not to pour fats, oils and grease down the drain.

During the holiday season, many San Diegans may be doing extra cooking at home, and should know that cooking grease can coat sewer pipelines leading to blockages, messy spills and the need for costly repairs.

In addition to preventing sewer problems at your home, proper disposal of these substances is also better for the environment. The spilled sewage can eventually reach San Diego’s bays, rivers and beaches, causing unsafe conditions and temporary closures.

“Keeping fats, oils and grease out of your drain and sewer lines is the smart thing to do to protect your home and our environment,” said Shauna Lorange, Director of the City’s Public Utilities Department. “You can save yourself from expensive plumbing repairs by disposing of them properly.”

Public Utilities Department crews have had to respond to more than 34 sewer spills throughout the city this year. Eight of these spills were the result of fats, oils and grease that had clogged a pipeline and could have been prevented.

Following a few simple steps can help prevent costly sewer spills:

- Never pour fats, oils or grease down the sink drain or garbage disposal. Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system.
- Pour small amounts of cooled cooking oil (this includes salad dressing, frying oil and bacon fat) into a non-recyclable package or container, such as an old milk carton, and dispose of in the garbage.
- Wipe dishes and pots that are coated with greasy leftovers with a disposable towel prior to washing or placing in the dishwasher.
- Put strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps such as meat trimmings and other solids and then empty in the trash, not the garbage disposal.

- Keep roots out of sewer pipelines by planting trees and bushes away from your home's lateral connection to the sewer line.

To report a sewer spill, call the Public Utilities emergency hotline at 619-515-3525. For additional information about preventing sewer spills, visit the City's website at sandiego.gov/public-utilities/sewer-spill-reduction.

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