

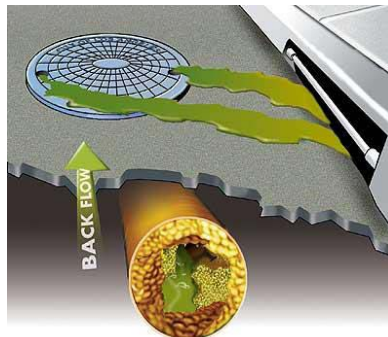


## What is FOG (Fats, Oils, and Grease)?

Portage County Water Resources owns and maintains the public sanitary sewer system serving many communities in the county. Under new statewide general waste discharge requirements, the county is mandated to institute a comprehensive FOG control program. FOG that enters the sewer system from kitchen sinks and drains eventually hardens and coats the inside of sewer pipes.

Over a short period of time FOG residues build up in the sewer pipes and begin to restrict flows until the FOG build-up completely blocks the normal flow of sewage. The blockage causes the flow of sewage to exit from the sanitary sewer system at the nearest outlet that is most commonly a manhole, cleanout, or broken pipe, and flow into the storm drainage system.

As a county with several sensitive waterways it takes very little time for a sewage spill to enter our waterways and lakes. Sewer spills are public health hazards, they cause negative environmental impacts, they are costly to cleanup, and they are preventable.



### To protect your pipes:

- Do not put oil, grease or greasy foods down the sink, drain or toilet.
- Solidify cooking oil with an absorbent material such as cat litter or coffee grounds; place it in a sealed container and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- Grease must be hardened in a can or container with a lid before disposing in the trash.
- Best to dispose of small amounts in the trash rather than a full container.
- Scrape leftover food and grease into the trash, wipe cooking utensils with a paper towel before washing.
- If you soak a greasy pan, place a paper towel over the drain basket to catch grease and food particles as you pour the water down the drain.

**Contact PCWR at 330-235-7298 if you have any questions regarding FOG**