

Grease – Public Enemy Number 1 for Sewer Lines

In the year 2001, the City of Navasota received 527 sewer backup calls; only 32 of these backups were in the main sewer lines. The remaining 495 blockages were in the homeowner's service line. Grease was present in almost every blocked sewer line – it is the #1 cause of sewer problems. Sewer backups can be greatly reduced if grease is not put down household drains. Grease and cooking oil should be poured into a can or other disposable container and put in the garbage. If all residents would dispose of grease and oil properly, sewer line problems could be reduced.

Facts

The accumulation of fats, oil, and grease inside sewer pipes is one of the leading causes of sanitary sewer overflows. The disposal of these materials into the sanitary sewer system can eventually restrict the flow in the pipe and cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes and businesses. In addition, manholes can overflow into parks, yards, streets, and storm drains, thus impacting local water quality, including drinking water supplies. Restaurants spend large amounts of money each year to keep their pipes free of fats, oil, and grease. Cities spend large amounts as well to maintain their sanitary sewer systems. Preventing blockages from fats, oil, and grease benefits both a city and its residents.