

AVOID SANITARY SEWER BLOCKAGES

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) poured down your sink may cost you money, time and hassle.

Pouring fats, oils and grease into the sanitary sewer system is an environmental and public health issue. FOG builds up in sewer lines and clogs pipes causing backups in your home, and can spill raw sewage into streets, storm drains, and creeks. Repairing clogged pipes can cost hundreds of dollars to fix and thousands of dollars if the clog causes wastewater to spill out and damage bathrooms and floors.

To prevent sewer backups:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Try removing grease from plates and utensils by wiping oily dishes with a paper towel and place in your green compost cart.
- For small amounts of oil and grease, consolidate them into a compostable container such as a milk carton and place in your green compost cart—cityofpaloalto.org/foodscraps
- Don't pour grease or cooking oil down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into your green compost cart.
- Bring large amounts of unwanted cooking oil (salad dressing, fryer oil) to the Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Station—cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste



What To Do With Food Scraps:

- Try composting produce scraps at home to reduce waste, create healthy soil and improve your garden—cityofpaloalto.org/compost
- Toss any meat scraps, bones or dairy products into your green compost cart.

Have a clogged sewer line? ALWAYS call us before calling a plumber!

- The City will need to check the line to make sure no other utility services will be damaged by clearing it. For more information on avoiding sewer backups and safety information, call us at **(650) 329-2579** or visit cityofpaloalto.org/safeutility

www.cityofpaloalto.org/safeutility

(650) 329-2161



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