

KEEP IT CLEAR

Keep Fats, Oils, and Grease Out of the Drain!

Fats, Oils, and Grease (known collectively as FOGs) are defined as materials, either liquid or solid, composed of fats, oils, and grease from animal or vegetable sources.

FOGs are not easily broken down by running hot water or garbage disposals; these methods often force the problem further down the pipe. When you pour FOGs down the sink, it enters the sanitary sewer system and will ultimately solidify, creating a thick clog. These clogs cause costly blockages and backups in the sewer pipes, which may back up into your home or neighboring homes. Sewage backups can also overflow into nearby creeks, rivers, or streams and result in significant health and environmental impacts. Each locality in the Chesapeake Bay is working to reduce the flow of pollutants. Taking these steps may prevent untreated sewage overflow contamination into the Bay.

Prevention

Making small changes in your everyday activities can help improve your local community and the Chesapeake Bay. To keep grease out of the drain at home, you can; containerize used grease, scrape your plates prior to washing, and eliminate solids using the garbage disposal. Utilizing community chemical disposal services to properly dispose of household chemicals will keep chemicals out of home drains.

NASA LaRC Environmental Staff work actively to prevent harmful substances from entering drains at LaRC. As such, no FOG shall be poured into LaRC drains. Environmental Staff also regularly monitor the stormwater that leaves LaRC and that enters local waterways to ensure it is clean and clear.



Chemicals can also be very harmful to drains and have negative environmental impacts. Chemicals should not be disposed of down any drain for safety and environmental

reasons, since it may result in fire, chemical reactions, or corrosion within the plumbing system. Chemical disposal down any drain is prohibited at LaRC.



Image: askHRgreen

Sewer Blockage Formation



The start of a blocked pipe begins when grease and solids collect on the top and sides of the pipe interior.



The build-up increases over time when grease and other debris are washed down the drain.



Excessive accumulation will restrict the flow of wastewater and can result in a sanitary sewer overflow.

Image: nccde.org/216/What-is-FOG

Please contact the [Environmental Office](#) if you have any questions about water quality or proper disposal of chemicals or wastes at LaRC.