

Household Grease

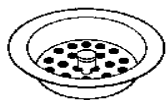
The build up of fats, oils and grease in the sewer system causes sewer blockages, which eventually result in sewer backups that can overflow onto streets and into homes, damaging property and the environment.

Did you know that approximately 80% of grease-related sewer blockages and overflows originate in residential areas?

All households play an important role in preventing neighborhood sewer system blockages. Here's how you can help prevent a blockage.

Every day, meals are prepared that contain fats, oils and grease. All too often the fats, oils and grease are poured down the sink or garbage disposers which are not designed to properly handle these materials. Once in the pipes, they build up and can eventually cause blockages and back ups. Here are some quick tips for proper disposal:

- Before washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans and dishes with paper towels and dispose of materials in the trash.
- Pour fats, oils and grease into a container such as an empty jar or coffee can. Once the materials have cooled and solidified and the container is full, secure the lid and place it in the trash.



- Use sink strainers to catch food items, then empty the strainer into the trash.



KENT COUNTY UTILITY SERVICES
KENT COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
1500 SCRIBNER AVENUE NW
GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49504

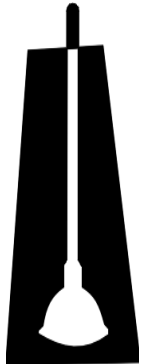
Sewer Backup And Overflow



What you need to know about: **SEWER OVERFLOWS**

When a sewer overflows, it is usually the result of inappropriate materials in the sewer system.

Have you ever experienced a sanitary sewer back-up or overflow? Luckily, most sewer back-ups and overflows can be prevented with a progressive preventive maintenance program. All of us can help to prevent them by wisely using the sanitary sewer system.



Sewer back-ups and overflows are frequently caused by improper materials such as fats, oils and grease being placed into the sewer system by the County's customers.

Since fats, oils and grease are lighter than water, they tend to accumulate at the top and sides of sewer pipes and can build up until a blockage occurs. If a blockage happens, the sewer backs up or overflows resulting in property and environmental damage.

By reducing the amount of fats, oils and grease that enter the sewer system from your home, you can help to protect the environment by preventing sewer back-ups and overflows.



DOs & DON'Ts of Sanitary Sewer Systems

Sanitary sewer systems are designed to handle three things: used water, human body waste, and toilet paper. You can do some simple things that will help Kent County Department of Public Works protect water quality and maintain the sewer system.

DO NOT: Use the toilet as a wastebasket.

DO NOT: Use the sewer as a means to dispose of food scraps

DO: Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the garbage

DO: Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid waste, or start a compost pile.

DO: Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste. Disposable diapers, condoms and personal hygiene products do not belong in the sewer system.

These suggestions can save you money too! Most sewer back-ups occur between the house and the City/Township's sewer main, where the property owner is responsible for correcting the problem. Avoiding blockages means avoiding plumbing bills.

To report a sewer backup or overflow contact:

Kent County Utility Services
Department of Public Works
(616) 336-2579
(616) 336-3694

Sheriff's Office
(616) 632-6357 After hours
They will dispatch the on-call personnel.



Help Prevent Back Ups

Certain items should not be disposed of in the sanitary sewer system. The following items should be disposed of in your trash can, NOT in the sanitary sewer system:

- Diapers
- Cooking Grease
- Paper towels
- Food
(Do **NOT** use the disposal for all food items)
- Feminine hygiene products
- Condoms



Improper disposal of these items has caused backups. Please dispose properly.

Reminder

Property owners are responsible for the maintenance, repair, and cleaning of the service line from the house to the municipal main line.

For More Information

Please contact the Kent County Department of Public Works at (616) 336-3694, or visit the Kent County website www.accesskent.com or Email: Norm.VandeRoer@kentcounty.org

Who Pays for the Damage?

Did you know that most basic homeowner's insurance policies do not cover sewer or basement drain backups? In most cases, additional coverage needs to be added to the policy to protect homeowners from backups. Contact your insurance agent for more information on adding this to your policy.