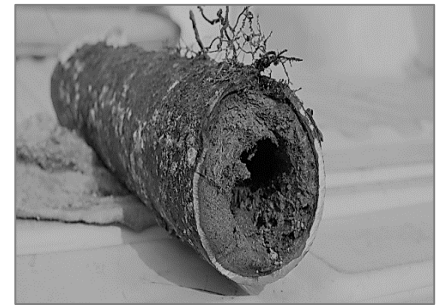




Fats, oil and grease in liquid form may not appear to be harmful, but when discharged into the sanitary sewer system they cool and harden in the pipe. Over time, this accumulation of FOG, food and other non-flushable products grow to form blockages and are one of the leading causes of sewer back-ups.



Accumulated fats, oil and grease inside a West St. Paul sewer main.



Fats, oil, and grease (**FOG**) originate from the disposal of the residual fat found in food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy, and other food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream. FOG discharged through food preparation sinks and floor drains accumulate inside the sanitary sewer pipes. As it solidifies and builds up, FOG restricts the flow in the pipe and can cause sanitary sewer overflows.

SSOs are the release of untreated wastewater that backs up into homes, businesses and wetlands, often resulting in high costs for cleanup and restoration.

In an EPA report to Congress, 47% of the sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the United States are caused by an excessive amount of fats, oils, and grease from restaurants and other industrial sources, which are discharged into the waste system¹

¹ EPA-833-R-04-001, Aug 2004