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FOG Prevention Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is FOG?

FOG is short for Fats, Oils, and Grease. FOG is found in many foods such as meats, sauces, salad dressings, foods cooked in deep fat fryers, cookies, pastries, dairy products, and many, many more.

Why is FOG a problem?

FOG in the sanitary sewer system coats the insides of the pipes, causing maintenance problems. The consequences include reduced sewer capacity and pipe blockages which can lead to sanitary sewer stoppages and overflows. These overflows are public health and environmental hazards, as well as a financial burden to residents, businesses, and Carmel Utilities. FOG can also damage equipment and appurtenances vital to the proper operation of the wastewater utility and its treatment process.

How do I avoid adding excess FOG into the sewer system?

The **DO** List:

- 1) **DO** scrape all food scraps and grease solids into the garbage.
- 2) **DO** collect excess frying grease in a separate container for proper disposal.
- 3) **DO** "dry wipe" your pots and pans prior to washing them.
- 4) **DO** call 317-571-2634 x 1633 for additional information.

The **DON'T** List:

- 1) **DON'T** rinse off food scraps and grease from plates, pots, and pans using hot water, and flush it down your kitchen drain.
- 2) **DON'T** pour FOG (salad oils, butter, shortening, grease, cooking oil, soups, etc.) down your kitchen drains.
- 3) **DON'T** overuse your garbage disposal – *your sink drains are not trash cans!!*
- 4) **DON'T** get lost in the FOG!

Why should I care how much FOG goes down my drains?!? Isn't the city responsible for cleaning the sanitary sewer system?

Because too much of this...



...can lead to this!



FOG damages Carmel's sewer system, creates blockages, and it is one of the main causes of sewer overflows. The utility spends thousands of dollars every year to perform extra maintenance on its sewer system due to excess FOG.

There are also problem areas, also known as FOG "Hot Spots", which even necessitate either mechanical or chemical cleaning that amounts to roughly 12x over and above what would be considered regularly scheduled maintenance. The time and resources that the Carmel Wastewater Utility dedicates to prevent FOG stoppages and overflows in these areas could possibly be reallocated if the levels of FOG in the sewer system were effectively reduced. This, in turn, could provide for a more efficient level of service to the community as a whole, which is Carmel's ultimate objective.