



Please stop by the Tahoe City Public Utility District's Administrative office on Fairway Drive to pick up your free cooking oil/grease disposal container.

Fat Trapper "How – To" Instructions



TCPUD Fats, Oils and Grease Reduction Program Frequently Asked Questions for Residences

- **What types of waste or household items should or should not be disposed of in the sewer system?**

Basically, only domestic wastes from sinks, showers, toilets, laundry facilities and dishwasher should be put into the sewer system. Things that should NEVER be put into the sewer system include: paper towels, sanitary napkins, diapers, egg shells, cooking oils, cooking fat, cooking grease, un-shredded food materials, oils, flammable liquids, toxic liquids/substances, acidic substances/liquids, paints, kitty litter, dirt, rocks, pebbles, sand, clothing materials, or any other solid which may impede flow in the sewer lines.

- **Why should fats, oil or grease NOT be put into the sewer system?**

Once these liquids enter the drain of your sink or dishwasher they immediately begin to cool and solidify. Depending on how fast they cool, the grease may solidify in your house service line or in the TCPUD sewer main. Once solidified, the grease can accumulate to the point of causing a blockage in the sewer line, which can back up into your home or cause a backup in the sewer main possibly resulting in a costly and damaging sewer spill.

- **How do I keep cooking grease, fats and oils from going down the drain?**

There are some real simple ways to deal with cooking and food fats, oil and grease. Drain excess fats from cooking into a used or empty glass jar or soup can. If not full, save the can in the freezer for the next time, or simply throw the container into the garbage. For pots, pans and dishes, dry wipe them with a paper towel prior to rinsing, washing, or placing in the dishwasher. The paper towel can then be thrown into the garbage. These procedures will greatly reduce the amount of grease, fats and oils that you discharge into the sewer system.

Additionally, you can stop by the TCPUD's Administrative Office on Fairway Drive to pick up your FREE cooking oil/grease disposal container.

- **Why is grease control necessary?**

Grease can gather in the wastewater collection system causing blockage of sewer flows, resulting in sanitary sewer overflows. The State Water Resources Control Board requires sewer utilities to develop and enforce a fats, oils and grease control program to help prevent these types of sewer spills. District Utility Department staff members' time is frequently diverted from normal maintenance and operations in order to clean sewer pump stations that are regularly blocked with grease.

- **What are Kitchen Best Management Practices?**

Also known as "Kitchen BMPs," these are practices, procedures and maintenance activities performed by commercial establishments and residential customers to reduce fats, oils and grease in the wastewater discharge. They include:

- Collecting all cooking grease and liquid oil from pots, pans and fryers in covered grease containers for recycling
 - Get your FREE cooking oil/grease disposal container at the TCPUD's Administrative Office on Fairway Drive
- Scraping or dry-wiping excess food and grease from dishes, pots, pans and fryers
- Installing drain screens on all kitchen drains

- **Why must I remove my garbage disposal?**

Garbage disposals that discharge into the public sewer system must be removed from service by May 15, 2007. Waste from the disposals must be screened and placed into the garbage for hauling to the sanitary landfill.

- **Can I use chemical or biological agents to reduce grease?**

No, the use of chemical and / or biological agents to dissolve fats, oils and grease is not allowed. They simply move the grease into the sewer collection system. If you have been using these materials, please discontinue by April 1, 2007. Contact the District to learn about alternative grease control measures.

- **Who do I contact for more information?**

- For more information, please contact Brad Stocking, Construction Inspector, 530-583-3796, x 44 or via email at bstocking@tcpud.org.