



## FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

### DIVISION OF UTILITIES & SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Jan H. Gardner  
County Executive

Kevin L. Demosky, Director

# News Release

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CONTACT: [Terri Snyder-Kolovich](#)  
Department Head, 301-600-2581

## Utilities and Solid Waste Management Officials Ask Citizens to Dispose of Holiday Cooking Grease Properly

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick County Division of Utilities and Solid Waste Management (DUSWM) is working to get out an important message just in time for the holiday cooking season: “Do not let a sewer backup ruin your holiday by pouring fats, oils and grease down your drain.”

Frederick County wastewater staff advise residents, restaurants and service organizations to never pour kitchen grease or oils down the drain because they can lead to disgusting backups and costly plumbing repairs.

Sources of grease include meat fats (Thanksgiving turkey, bacon, sausage and beef), lard, cooking oil, butter, baking products, milk and dairy products, and other food scraps.

The best way to dispose of grease is to let it cool in the pan and scrape it into a can (such as a soup can) and dispose of it in the trash once it has solidified.

Other disposal tips include:

- Avoid pouring cooking grease and oil, butter and render fat down the drain.
- Avoid placing food that contains fats, oil and grease into the garbage disposal.
- Use a paper towel or napkin to absorb cooking oil or grease before washing.
- Scrape food and grease from dishes into the garbage prior to washing.

Division Director Kevin Demosky said, “Fats, oils and grease used for cooking or as a result of cooking can wreak havoc on the sanitary sewer drains and the wastewater system if not disposed of properly. Often, these clogs may develop in household plumbing and can be costly to the resident. Grease build-up in public sewer systems may cause overflows and result in untreated sewage spilling on the ground and reaching waterways, which is extremely important for public health and environmental reasons.”

For further information regarding proper disposal of grease, visit [ProtectYourPipes.org](#) or contact the DUSWM at 301-600-1825.

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