



City of Portsmouth
Public Works Department

PIPES

HOW TO KEEP THEM FLOWING

FOG CLOGS PIPES

FATS, OILS, & GREASE

FOG stands for Fats, Oils, and Grease. Did you know that pouring fats, oils, and grease down the drain or garbage disposal creates obstructions in underground pipes (private and public) and may create serious problems like blockages and sewer overflows?

FOG is one of the leading causes of sewer overflows and blockages. When washed down the sink, grease sticks to sewer pipes. Over time, grease buildup can clog an entire pipeline, causing sewer backups and overflows in our community.



FOG DØN'Ts:



Do not pour cooking oil, greasy food, dairy products, or salad dressing down the drain.



Do not use hot water and soap to try to wash grease down the drain. It will eventually cool and harden in the sewer lines.

DOs:



Use strainers in the sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and empty them into the trash.



Scrape food particles from pots, pans, and dishes into the trash can prior to placing them in the sink for washing.



Collect grease in a container and dispose of it in the trash.



Wipe excess fats and grease from pans with a dry paper towel and toss into the trash.

WIPES CLOG PIPES



“Flushable” does not mean it is safe for your sewer or septic system. 

Wipes should be discarded in the trash, along with...

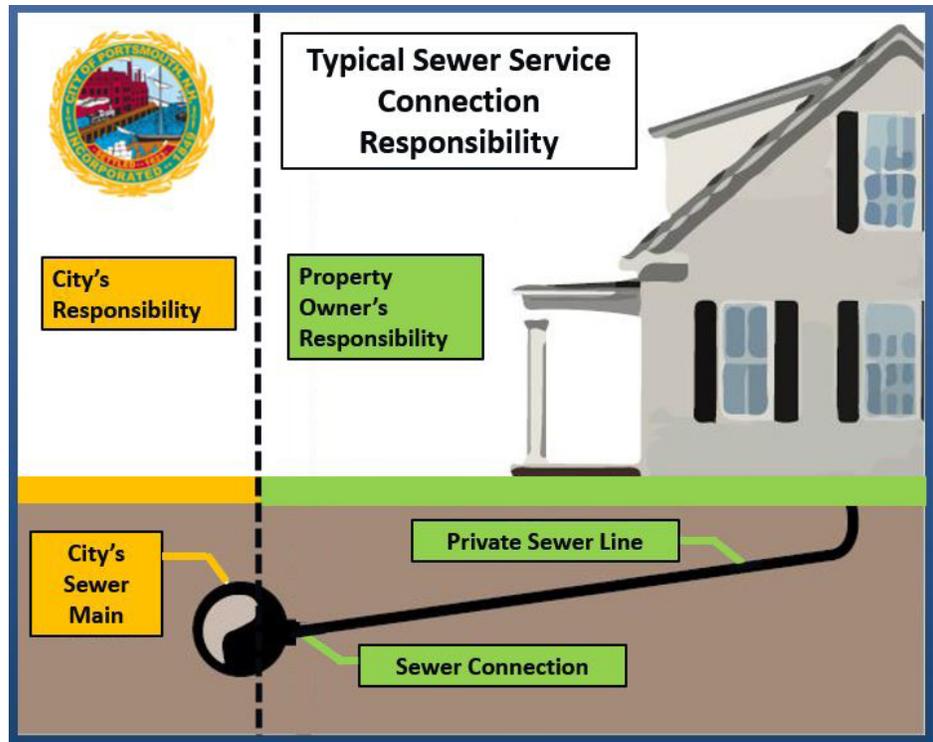


The Public Works Sewer Division is dedicated to providing ongoing maintenance to the sewage collection and treatment systems. The City's sewer system provides service to over 90% of the City's developed land area and extends into portions of Greenland and Rye. The system is impacted by everything that is put down a private drain.

What is a sewer lateral? A sewer lateral is a pipe that transports wastewater from all the drains in a structure (i.e. single family home, building, etc.) to the City's sewer main. Sewer laterals are privately-owned and maintained by the property owner.

What is the City's responsibility? The City of Portsmouth's responsibility for the sewer system is to maintain wastewater flow in the collection system pipes. The main sewer line, which is often located in the street, is part of the City's collection system. DPW routinely inspects and cleans sewer lines, performs preventive maintenance and repairs, and upgrades as needed.

What is the property owner's responsibility? The private property owner's responsibility is to maintain the entire length of the lateral pipe and connection to the sewer main, which includes that portion that may be located within the public right-of-way (under the asphalt and street landscaping). Maintaining the lateral includes keeping the lateral line flowing freely and repairing cracks and breaks.



What if the property is served by a septic system? Proper maintenance and routine inspections are critical to assuring that a septic system is in good condition. Contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Subsurface System Bureau for more information. <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/ssb/index.htm>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Explore our FOG web page:
www.cityofportsmouth.com/public-works/wastewater-sewer/fats-oils-and-grease

City of Portsmouth
 Department of Public Works, Wastewater and Sewer Division

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The City of Portsmouth is asking the community to capture FOG at the source to keep it out of the sewer system.

What is FOG?
 FOG stands for Fat, Oil, and Grease and are found in common food and food ingredients such as meat fats, lard, oils, shortening, butter, margarine, milk cream, many sauces, gravies, dressings and food scraps.

Why is it a concern?
 When FOG enters the sewer system, it coagulates, restricting the flow of wastewater. FOGs build up causing clogs and backups in homes and businesses, sewer overflows, spills on streets, spills on private and public property, and can overflow into local surface waters.

Why does Portsmouth have a FOG Program?
 The City of Portsmouth is required by federal laws to reduce sewer overflows to the Piscataqua river. Implementing a FOG program will help reduce the volume of raw sewage that overflows into local surface waters during rain events. To reduce these overflows, our sewer system cannot be clogged as a result of FOG.

What are the Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Program?
 A compliance program to capture FOG before it enters the sewer system. It includes specific grease catchment equipment, maintenance requirements and enforcement action for not having or not maintaining equipment sufficiently.

For Residents:
 An educational program for homeowners and tenants to learn how to dispose of FOG properly, keeping it out of the sewer system. Storage backups due to FOG can damage personal and public property.

What can you do?
 Utilize best management practices (BMPs) like dry wiping, proper employee training, separate storage of FOG for trash or compost disposal, and maintain grease control equipment regularly with maintenance records.

Who can I contact at the Department of Public Works?
 General Inquiries:
 Assistant City Engineer
 680 Peverly Hill Road, Portsmouth, NH 03801
 (603) 766-1753 or rspecial@cityofportsmouth.com
 Sewer issues can be tracked by visiting the City FOG web page:
www.cityofportsmouth.com/public-works/wastewater-sewer/fats-oils-and-grease

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BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Staff Training
 Train all staff on Best Management Practices (BMPs). People are more willing to support an effort if they understand its basis.

Grease Removal Equipment "Right" Maintenance Log
 Keep records for grease maintenance & disposal

NEVER pour FOG down the drain

Post "NO GREASE" signs over dish areas

Water temperatures of 140° and above should NOT be connected to grease control equipment

Recycle Yellow Grease

ALWAYS use screens in all sink & floor drains

Keep spills from drains & clean with absorbent material first

Dry wipe food waste from dishes & put in rubbish

GET PUMPED!
 New Hampshire

Don't wait for a failure to schedule a septic system pumpout