

DON'T POUR OIL AND GREASE DOWN DRAINS

Did you know that cooking grease is the main cause of most residential sewer and City collection sewer system blockages? These blockages can result in sewer back-ups through out the City.

The City of American Falls is encouraging restaurants and residents to be aware of what they are disposing into there drains. The City of American Falls has an ordinance (515, 1-7-1998) that requires any establishments that produce large amounts of oils and grease install and maintain grease interceptors to prevent grease from entering the sewer system. By reducing the amount of ***fats, oils and grease*** that enter the sewer system from your home or restaurant; you are helping to protect the environment by preventing sewer back-ups and overflows.

Cooking grease coats the inside walls of sewer pipes, similar to the way fatty foods can clog your arteries. The grease that clings to the inside of the pipes builds up over time and acts as a host for other material to cling to, restricting the size of the pipe. Eventually the pipes become completely clogged and sewer will back up, either in the homeowner's property or through a manhole into the City streets and possibly to the river.

Sanitary sewer systems are designed to handle three things: used water, human body waste, and toilet paper. **You** can do some simple things that will help the City protect water quality and maintain the sewer system in American Falls. By doing the following you can help prevent costly sewer back-ups and reduce environmental impacts associated with back-ups.

- *Do not pour **FOG** down the drains (**Fats, Oil and Grease**)*
- *Do not use the toilet as a wastebasket*
- *Do not use the sewer as means to dispose of food scraps. Place leftover foods, fat trimmings from meat, etc. in the trash can instead of the garbage disposal*
- ***NEVER** dump motor oil or other lubricants down the drain.*

These suggestions can save you money too! Most back-ups occur between your home and the City's sewer main, where the home owner would be responsible for correcting the problem.

If you experience a problem, first contact the Water/Wastewater department at City Hall 226-2569 or the Sheriff's Office after hours at 226-2311. The City will come and investigate the problem and inform the calling party if the problem is in the City's main line or if the problem exists in a private line.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact the Water /Wastewater Superintendent Pete Cortez at City Hall (226-2569)