

**Utica**  
**Spring 2018 Newsletter**

**Preventing Sewer Backups**

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) in sanitary sewer pipes create numerous problems in a community's sewer system. FOG enters sewer pipes through restaurant businesses, residential developments, and commercial properties. Once in the sewer, FOG sticks to the pipe and thickens. Over time, FOG can build up resulting in reduced capacity of a pipe and eventually blocking the entire pipe. Blockages in sewer pipes send sewage backward and overflowing out of manholes into streets, rivers, or up floor drains in homes.

Fats, oils, and grease are by-products of cooking found in food scraps, meat fats, lard, cooking oil, butter, margarine, or shortening. Chemicals from industrial complexes also produce FOG waste. Follow these tips to protect our environment and keep drains and sewers clear of FOG:

- Pour or scrape greasy or oily food waste into a container or jar
- Allow grease to cool or freeze in the container before throwing it in the trash
- Do not use hot water to rinse grease off cookware, utensils, or dishes. Wipe it off with a paper towel or dish rag instead
- Keep drains clean by pouring ½ cup baking soda down the drain, followed by ½ cup vinegar. Wait 10 to 15 minutes and then rinse with hot water

For more information on Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG), please visit the Clean Water Services' website at [www.cleanwaterservices.org](http://www.cleanwaterservices.org).