

Currents

Henry F. Vitale, Executive Director

November | December 2015

Turkey Day and Every Day...

How to Properly Dispose of Fats, Oils, and Grease

On Thanksgiving Day and every day, there's one rule every home cook should remember: Don't dump fats, oils, or grease (FOG) down the drain!

The Problem with FOG

FOG is a leading cause of sewer overflows. When FOG cools inside pipes, it can cause clogs. These clogs may lead to backups in either your home's pipes or Boston's sewer system. Following the one, simple rule to not dump FOG down the drain will reduce the likelihood of unpleasant backups, flooding, and costly damage to your property and the environment.

Where Does FOG Come From?

FOG resulting from cooking is found in:

- Cooking oil
- Lard
- Food scraps
- Butter and margarine
- Sauces
- Dairy products

Knowing What to Do

There are some simple things you can do to minimize FOG accumulation and prevent sewer backups (see sidebar). This holiday season, and throughout the year, knowing what to do with FOG—and doing it—can save you from some costly repairs.

Six Tips to Keep FOG Out of the Sewer System

- 1** Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets or garbage disposals.
- 2** Pour grease into a covered, disposable container, and put it into the trash. (See back page for how to get—and use—a free grease can lid.)
- 3** Soak up remaining fats, oils, and grease with paper towels, and dispose of with your trash.
- 4** Before you wash pans or dishes, scrape fatty food scraps into the trash—not into the sink or garbage disposal.
- 5** Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain basket or strainer into the trash.
- 6** Use garbage disposals only for fruits, vegetables, and organic waste.



WE ARE ALL CONNECTED

Let's protect Boston's waterways

Cool It. Can It. Trash It.

How to Get a Free, Reusable Grease Can Lid

Boston Water and Sewer Commission can help you dispose of fats, oils, and grease properly and keep FOG out of the sewer system. We're offering each of our customers a free, reusable grease can lid.

Here's how to use it:

- 1 Let FOG cool in the pan.
- 2 Pour the cooled FOG into a can.
- 3 Cover the can with your free lid, and store it in your freezer.
- 4 When the can is full, remove the lid. Put the can into the trash on your regular trash collection day.
- 5 Reuse the lid on your next grease can.



Remember:

Cool It. Can It. Trash It.

It's fast, it's easy, and it's very effective.

To get your free, reusable lid:

- **Click** on the Fats, Oils, and Grease page at www.bwsc.org.
- **Visit** a neighborhood site location on the dates and times listed below.
- **Call** BWSC at 617-989-7000.

Available to Boston residents only.

Neighborhood Site Locations

Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) will have a representative from the Community Services Department at neighborhood locations (see schedule below) to offer assistance.

Meet with BWSC staff to:

- Pay your water bill with a check or money order—no cash.
- Talk about any problems you may have with your bill or service.
- Find out how much water is being used on your property.
- Plan to make payments on bills that are past due.
- Receive help applying for a senior or disabled person's discount.
- Learn more about BWSC customer programs.

Brighton

Allston/Brighton APAC

143 Harvard Avenue
Thursdays, 10 AM–12 PM
11/19 and 12/17

Charlestown

Golden Age Center

382 Main Street
Tuesdays, 11 AM–1 PM
11/24 and 12/29

Chinatown

CCBA

90 Tyler Street
Thursdays, 11 AM–1 PM
11/12 and 12/10

Dorchester

Uphams Corner Municipal Building

500 Columbia Road
Fridays, 10 AM–12 PM
11/13 and 12/11

East Boston

East Boston APAC

21 Meridian Street
Wednesdays, 10 AM–1 PM
11/4, 11/18 and 12/2, 12/9

Fields Corner

Kit Clark Senior Center

1500 Dorchester Avenue
Mondays, 10 AM–12 PM
11/23 and 12/14

Hyde Park

Hyde Park Municipal Building

1179 River Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM–1 PM
11/3, 11/17 and 12/1, 12/15

Jamaica Plain

Curtis Hall Community Center

20 South Street
Mondays, 10 AM–12 PM
11/9 and 12/7

Mattapan

Mattapan Public Library

1350 Blue Hill Avenue
Fridays, 10 AM–12 PM
11/6 and 12/4

North End

North End Public Library

25 Parmenter Street
Thursdays, 10 AM–12 PM
11/5 and 12/3

Roslindale

Greater Roslindale Medical & Dental Center

4199 Washington Street
Tuesdays, 10 AM–1 PM
11/10 and 12/8

South Boston

South Boston APAC

424 West Broadway
Wednesdays, 10 AM–12 PM
11/25 and 12/16

West Roxbury

Roche Community Center

1716 Centre Street
Fridays, 10 AM–1 PM
11/20 and 12/18

South End & Roxbury

Residents of the South End and Roxbury are invited to use the BWSC Headquarters as their neighborhood site location.



**BOSTON WATER AND
SEWER COMMISSION**

980 Harrison Avenue • Boston, MA 02119

Headquarters are open:
Monday–Friday, 8 AM–5 PM
Wednesdays, 8 AM–7 PM

617-989-7000 www.bwsc.org

[facebook.com/BostonWaterAndSewerCommission](https://www.facebook.com/BostonWaterAndSewerCommission)

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