



QUICK LINKS

- Water
 - Water Use
 - Water Quantity
 - Surface Water Quality
 - Floods
 - Water Resources Information
 - Ground Water Observations
- Land Use
 - Agriculture
 - Balanced Growth
 - Best Management Practices
- Recreation
- Environment & Health
 - New Scientific Findings
 - Rain Gardens
- Ohio River
 - Regional Storm Water Collaborative

PEOPLE



Todd Long-Hamilton
County Storm Water District

The Hamilton County Storm Water District, through the leadership of the Hamilton County Engineer William Brayshaw, is extremely pleased to be a part of the Project Earth Media Campaign. The District believes that the media campaign is another example of what can be accomplished when resources are leveraged together toward a common goal. The District is excited to have the capability of reaching a much larger audience of its citizens with the important environmental messages regarding storm water, green infrastructure, pollution prevention, and best

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PROPERLY DISPOSE OF FATS, OILS & GREASE (FOG) DURING THE HOLIDAYS

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2010 AT 10:25AM

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

During the holiday season, fats, oil and grease (FOG) from food preparation can cause big problems for homeowners. The obvious source that comes to mind is turkey fryer grease, but that is just one type of FOG. FOG is any solid or thick substance that may cause an obstruction to wastewater flow and interfere with the normal operation of the sanitary sewer system. FOG is found in most kitchens and food service establishments and includes: meats, sauces, gravies, salad dressings, deep-fried dishes, cookies, pastries, cheese, and butter.

FOG should never be disposed of down the kitchen drain. It will cause a mess and cost you money. FOG accumulates over time and leads to clogged pipes in your house and clogged pipes under the street that take the wastewater from your house to the treatment plant. If that happens, the wastewater can back up and come to the surface and pollute the environment. This can allow untreated sewage to run into the streets and into our storm drains. Not only is this a human health hazard but, since storm drains flow untreated directly to creeks and rivers, this can cause significant environmental damage and impact aquatic life. Unclogging drain lines and cleaning up sewer overflows is very expensive both for homeowners and for local municipalities. You can avoid unnecessary expense and damage to the sewer system by following a few simple rules.

How you can help:

Wipe it up. Small amounts of cooking oil, such as meat drippings, can be soaked up with a paper towel and thrown into the trash.

Reuse it. Decide whether the oil needs to be discarded. Oil used for deep-frying can be reused several times. After it has cooled, filter and freeze used cooking oil and reuse it for another meal.

Trash it. After it has cooled, pour the used cooking oil into a sturdy closed-lid container, like a coffee can, and dispose of it in the trash or take large amounts to a local landfill.

Recycle it. Dispose of large quantities of cooking oil and grease by contacting your nearest **solid** waste district to find out if used cooking oil and grease is accepted for recycling. Alternatively, recycle large amounts of used cooking oil with the help of a cooperative local restaurant. Most restaurants have used grease bins. Ask if you can add your used oil to their grease bin.

Holiday food preparation creates a lot of fats, oil, and grease (FOG), but cooking regular meals throughout the year does too. Just in smaller amounts. Apply the same tips and practices year round to protect your house, your health, and your environment.

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management practices. The District believes that education is an important tool that will empower great changes to our areas water resources, leaving a clean, safe, and healthy system for future generations to come.

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