

## Items That Should NOT be Disposed of in the Sewer System

- Cooking Grease or Oil
- Food Debris
- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Cotton Balls
- Kitty Litter
- Acne Pads
- Dental Floss
- Feminine Hygiene Products
- Condoms
- Band Aids
- Paper Towels
- Sanitary Wipes (including “flushable” wipes)
- Q-Tips
- Rags
- Plastic
- Drinking Straws

## Septic Systems

North Carolina State University makes the following additional recommendations regarding using your septic system:

- Do not pour cooking greases, oils, and fats down the drain. Grease hardens in the septic tank and accumulates until it clogs the inlet or outlet. Grease poured down the drain with hot water may flow through the septic tank and clog soil pores completely.
- Don't use your septic tank as a trash can for cigarette butts, tissues, sanitary napkins, cotton swabs, cat box litter, coffee grinds, or disposable diapers. Restrict the use of your garbage disposal.
- Don't poison your system with harmful chemicals such as solvents, oils, paints, thinners, disinfectants, pesticides, poisons, and other substances. They can kill bacteria that help purify sewage and can also contaminate groundwater.
- Don't use too much water. Most drainfields are designed to handle a daily flow of 120 gallons per day per bedroom. When they near or exceed this flow, the system may not work. Water conservation will extend the life of your system.

There is additional information on maintaining septic systems on the Town's website or from the Water Resources office.

Town of

# RIVER BEND, NORTH CAROLINA



## Fats, Oils, & Greases, (FOGs)

## Customer Guidance

Town of River Bend  
Water Resources  
Brandon Mills, Director of Public Works  
45 Shoreline Drive  
River Bend, North Carolina 28562  
(252) 638-3540

In an effort to reduce the potential for Sanitary Sewer Overflows,(SSO's) the Public Works Staff of The Town of River Bend, N.C. has compiled the following information to help educate our water and sewer customers concerning the best management practice for the disposal of household Fats, Oils and Greases, (FOG's).

Each year thousands of gallons of untreated sewage are spilled from collection systems throughout the state of North Carolina because of poor management practices in commercial as well as residential disposal of FOG's.

FOG's introduced to sanitary sewers will result in substantial accumulation to the point of blockage and may result in overflow of untreated sewage.

Each reported SSO could result in our community being fined by the Division of Water Quality. Those fines are a cost to the Utility and must be paid from user fees.

It is the goal of the Utility to have no SSO's to report from our collection system. This will be possible only with the help of our customers. Your cooperation will be appreciated. If you have any question please contact Brandon Mills, Director of Public Works, at (252) 638-3870 x-206.

## DID YOU KNOW...?

Most sanitary sewer backups occur between your home and the town's sewer main?

You can help prevent a costly and unsanitary overflow by following a few simple steps:

### DO...

- Scrape excess grease into a container and dispose of it as solid waste in the garbage.
- Place food scraps in waste containers or garbage bags for disposal with solid waste, or start a compost pile.
- Place a wastebasket in the bathroom to dispose of solid waste, disposable diapers, condoms and personal hygiene products that do not belong in the sewer system.
- Promote the concept of "3 R's", Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle.

## DO NOT...

- Pour fats, oils and grease from cooking down the drain.
- Use the toilet as a waste paper basket.
- Use the sewer as a means of disposing of waste food.

## HOW TO DISPOSE OF GREASE

1. Allow to cool.
2. Use a container with a lid.
3. Pour the cooled oil or grease into container.
4. Place lid on container.
5. Scrape or wipe cookware using paper towel or spatula into garbage before washing.