

**How to Reach the
Rock River Water
Reclamation District**

3333 Kishwaukee St.
Rockford, IL 61109

Switchboard 387-7400

Call us 24-hours a day,
seven days a week.

Supporting Services	387-7600
Sewer Backups.....	387-7600
Administration	387-7420
Collections	387-7510
Engineering.....	387-7660
Residential Bills	387-7500
Industrial Bills	387-7640
Sewer Permits	387-7555
Toxic Spills	387-7455
TDD (<i>Hearing Impaired</i>).....	800-526-0857

Website: www.RRWRD.dst.il.us

For additional copies of this brochure
call 387-7600

Este folleto disponible en español.
Llame al 387-7637

**Don't let it
happen again!**

If you have had a sewer backup you
might wish to consult a plumber to
discuss the installation of a backflow
prevention device in your drain.

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**Avoid backed-up
sewers
Don't dump**



**Simple steps to keep
sewers flowing**



Fats, oils and grease are just as bad for sewers as they are for your waistline.

Tidying up the kitchen can wreck the basement if the grease and oils that are dumped into the sewers clog the pipes and result in the backup of sewage into your home. Common kitchen fat, grease and oil are among the most devastating things that commonly find their way into the sewer system.

Sources of grease include:

Meat fats	Lard
Cooking oil	Shortening
Butter	Margarine
Food scraps	Baked goods
Sauces	Dairy products

The main entry point is the kitchen sink.

While grease might appear to go down the drain and disappear, it sticks to the insides of sewer pipes, both in your home and in the sewer mains under the streets. Over time the sticky goo can build up and block entire pipes.

Do garbage disposals help?

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. The disposals only shred solid material into smaller pieces. They do not prevent grease from going down the drain and sticking to the pipes.

Do detergents help?

Commercial detergents do dissolve grease, but only for a while. Eventually the grease comes out of the solutions and sticks to the pipes.

How bad is the problem?

The results of grease accumulation can include raw sewage backing up into your home or your neighbor's home resulting in an expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by the homeowner. **(Check your homeowners or renter's insurance. Often it does not cover damage from sewer backups.)**

Raw sewage can overflow from blocked mains and run into parks, yards and streets. Contact with raw sewage can spread disease-causing organisms. The cost of maintaining the system and clearing clogged pipes adds to operating expenses, which results in higher charges for sewage treatment.

What about grease traps?

Many commercial food processors and restaurants have grease traps to remove fats and oils before they enter the sewers. They are only effective if they are maintained and emptied regularly.

Six quick ways to prevent Sewer backups and clogs

- 1 Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets
- 2 Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, grills and cooking surfaces into a can for disposal with your trash.
- 3 Do not put grease down garbage disposals.
- 4 Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other soils then empty the containers into the trash for disposal.
- 5 Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out.
- 6 Call the Rock River Water Reclamation District, 387-7600, if you have any questions.