



# OPERATION Ripple Effect™

## SIMPLE STEPS: BIG BENEFITS FOR THE MOHAWK RIVER

### PROJECT BULLETIN

Normally, our sanitary sewer system has enough capacity to operate properly. But, when we get heavy rains or sudden snow melts, stormwater overwhelms the system and causes overflows into the Mohawk River. That stormwater runoff enters the sanitary sewer system from multiple sources, including deteriorated and damaged public sanitary sewers and private property connections, such as roof leaders and sump pumps.

Operation Ripple Effect is a program of the Oneida County Sewer District that asks residents, businesses, and municipalities to do their part to reduce overflows. Together, we can help keep the Mohawk River clean.

## What is FOG?

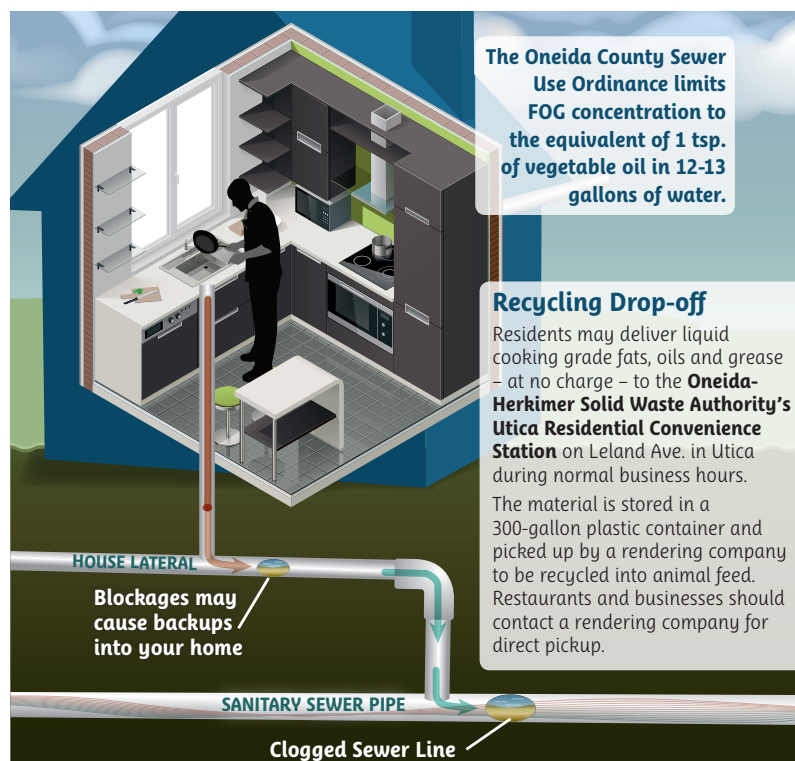
Fats, oils and grease (FOG) are used in, or are byproducts of, cooking certain foods. When warm or hot, FOG is often a liquid and may not seem like a big problem. However, after traveling down a sewer drain, these liquids cool and become solid, resulting in clogged pipes that cause sewer overflows and backups into your home. When FOG builds up in the sanitary sewer system, blockages sometimes occur, causing sewer backups into your home. Not only does it cost a lot of money to clean up the mess in your home, but it also costs to clean out the sewer pipes! This is great information to share with friends and family with the holiday season approaching.

## What are common sources of FOG?

- Cooking oil
- Meat fats
- Lard, shortening, butter and margarine
- Fatty or greasy food scraps
- Baked goods and pastries
- Cream-based sauces
- Salad dressing and mayonnaise
- Dairy products

## SIMPLE STEPS: AVOID THE MESS!

- Never pour grease, fats or oil down the sink or garbage disposal
- Recycle liquid cooking oil by collecting it in a container and dropping it off at the Oneida-Herkimer Solid Waste Authority
- Carefully pour warm fat, oil and grease into jars, cans and/or other containers. Once cooled, dispose of the container in the trash
- Mix liquid cooking oil with an absorbent material, such as cat litter or coffee grounds, and place in a lidded container for disposal in your trash
- For greasy dishes, pour off the grease into a container as instructed above and dry wipe the remaining grease prior to washing



Contact [cmanion@paigegroup.com](mailto:cmanion@paigegroup.com) to schedule a briefing.  
For more news and reports, visit [www.RippleEffectOCSD.org](http://www.RippleEffectOCSD.org).

An Initiative of the Oneida County Sewer District

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