

Fats, Oils and Grease

Fats, Oil and Grease are becoming an increasingly common problem in the operation and maintenance of the sewer network. When Fats, Oil and grease are continuously dumped into the drainage system, usually via the kitchen sink, they attach to the inside of the drain and sewer pipes. A build up is created over time, which can affect both the operation of your private drain and the public sewer.

Where do the Fats, Oils and Greases Come From?

Fats, Oils and Grease are a by-product of cooking and are usually found in such things as meat fats, cooking oil, sauces, dairy products etc. These products are often disposed of by pouring them directly into the kitchen sink but also make their way into the drainage system through the 'dish washing' process.

What Can Happen?

The dumping of fats, oils and grease into the drainage system results in blockages in private drains, sewers and sewage pumping stations and can also create difficulties in the sewage treatment process. Such blockages can result in:-

- Raw sewage overflowing into your home creating a health hazard and damaging your private property and belongings.
- An expensive and unpleasant clean-up of the flooded area which often must be paid for by you, the homeowner.
- Raw sewage overflowing into streets and other public areas creating a public health hazard and an expensive clean up for the Local Authority.
- Raw sewage overflowing into streams creating an environmental hazard. Where these streams outfall to the sea at swimming areas, the presence of raw sewage creates a public health hazard.
- An increase in the cost to the local authority for the operation and maintenance of the sewer network through increased running and repair costs.

What Can the Public do to Help?

The easiest way to solve this problem is to control the fats, oils and grease at source and prevent them entering the drainage system.

There are several things which we can all do to help in achieving this:-

- Never pour grease down sinks or toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots etc. before washing, and dispose of into the waste bin.

By doing these simple things, we can all help to make our environment a cleaner and healthier place whilst at the same time ensuring that the Drainage System operates efficiently and at a minimum cost to both the homeowner and the Local Authority.