

Answers *to questions about...*

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Public Education Outreach Program

- **Background** The Orange County Sanitation District (OCSD) is the third largest publicly owned wastewater treatment agency west of the Mississippi River. OCSD treats an average of 243 million gallons of sewage per day from 2.5 million people and approximately 1,000 businesses and industries in central, north and west Orange County. OCSD operates two treatment plants, one in Fountain Valley and one in Huntington Beach, California.

In OCSD's 471 square mile service area, sewage from 21 cities, three special districts and some unincorporated areas of Orange County are transported to OCSD through 12,000 miles of sewer pipelines.

- **Problem** When large volumes of fats, oils or grease (FOG) enter sewer pipes, they solidify and accumulate, resulting in narrowing of the pipe's internal opening. Eventually the inside of the pipe can become completely clogged, causing sewage to back up into homes and businesses, or onto the streets and into storm drains that lead to the ocean.

Such spills are unhealthy, harm the environment, and can be expensive to clean up. In the case of food service establishments such as restaurants, they can also lead to fines and business closures.

The problem is simply that people have been putting fats, oils and grease down their drains and garbage disposals. That has to stop. The drain is not a dump.

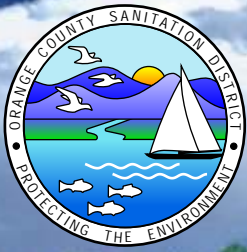
- **FOG Public Education Outreach Program** The State of California's Regional Water Quality Control Board for the Santa Ana Region has issued an order (No. R8-2002-0014) to local cities and sewer districts to begin controlling the release of fats, oils and grease (FOG) into the sewer system from food service establishments, homes and businesses.

This FOG Public Education Outreach Program is a joint effort undertaken by 22 cities and districts to inform food service establishments, residents and businesses about the problems fats, oils and grease can cause in the sewer system, and to teach better ways to dispose of these materials. The Orange County Sanitation District coordinated the production of the educational materials.

- **Program Participants:**

City of Anaheim	City of Newport Beach
City of Brea	City of Orange
City of Buena Park	County of Orange
City of Cypress	Orange County Sanitation District
El Toro Water District	City of Placentia
City of Fullerton	Rossmoor/Los Alamitos Area Sewer District
Garden Grove Sanitary District	City of Santa Ana
City of Huntington Beach	City of Seal Beach
Irvine Ranch Water District	City of Stanton
City of La Habra	City of Yorba Linda
Midway City Sanitary District	Yorba Linda Water District

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Orange County
Sanitation District

*Vision –
To maintain world-class
leadership in wastewater
and water resource
management*

10844 Ellis Avenue
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92708-7018

for more information
call (714) 962-2411
or visit our web site
www.ocsd.com

- **Food Service Establishments** Restaurants and other food service establishments are the primary sources of fats, oils and grease in the sewer system. There are two preferred ways for food service establishments to collect fats, oils and grease:

Grease Interceptors – large underground devices connected to the outgoing sewer system. When full, they must be emptied and cleaned by permitted waste pickup and disposal companies. Installation of a grease interceptor ranges from \$8,000 for new construction to \$10,000 to \$15,000 for a retrofit.

Grease Barrels – covered barrels for higher quality cooking grease are collected by commercial companies for recycling. This solution alone may not adequately prevent grease from entering the sewer system from sinks unless other kitchen best management practices are followed.

- **General Public** Residential sewer users, not just restaurants, are also sources of FOG problems, especially residents in multifamily buildings. That’s why this FOG education program addresses residents as well as businesses.

Residents can avoid such sewer problems by mixing fats, oils and grease with absorbent materials such as paper towels or kitty litter and putting them where they belong—in the trash.

- **For More Information** Please contact Ingrid Hellebrand, Senior Public Information Specialist with the Orange County Sanitation District, at (714) 593-7115 or ihellebrand@ocsd.com.

- **Resources/Links:**

Orange County Sanitation District
www.ocsd.com
General FOG information.

Orange County Grand Jury
www.ocgrandjury.org/reports.asp
An April 25, 2001 grand jury report shows what the relationship between FOG and sewer spills was thought to be at that time.

Orange County Health Care Agency,
 Ocean Water Protection Program
www.ocbeachinfo.com/downloads/index.htm
Information on sewer spills and beach closures, and annual reports on ocean and bay water quality.

Orange County Health Care Agency,
 Food Protection Program
www.ocfoodinfo.com/closures.htm
Information on restaurant closures.

United States Environmental Protection Agency
http://cfpub1.epa.gov/npdes/home.cfm?program_id=4
The “home page” for sewer spill information but also data on discharge permits, etc.

California Regional Water Quality Control Board,
 Santa Ana Region
www.waterboards.ca.gov/santaana/
Information on our Region 8’s water quality control board.

