

# MURPHYS SANITARY DISTRICT

JUNE 1, 2012

## **Help Prevent Sewer Spills Please Keep FOG Out of Your Kitchen Sink**

Summer is upon us, and the Murphys Sanitary District encourages you to keep your sink fat-free this summer season.

Throughout the year, and especially when entertaining during vacations and holidays, people pour the byproducts of cooking down the sink drain. Fats, cooking oils, and grease (FOG) can coat and clog pipes and cause sewer lines to back up into homes. That could mean costly clean-up and repair costs. FOG can also cause blockages further down sewer lines. And that can result in overflows or sewage backups into yards or streets, creating a public health risk.

The oil making its way to wastewater treatment plants can disrupt treatment processes and add to the need for maintenance.

To prevent these problems, we encourage you to dispose of your leftover FOG properly. Here are some general suggestions that many of your neighbors may already be following.

- Don't put fats, oil, grease, or greasy food down the garbage disposal or drain.
- Place small amounts of fats, oil, and grease in a container with a tight-sealing lid, put the container in a trash bag, tie the bag shut, and dispose of it in a trash receptacle.
- Mix cooking oils with an absorbent material such as coffee grounds, place in a lidded container, and dispose in a trash receptacle.
- If you're soaking a greasy pan, first pour off grease into a container. Then place paper towels over the drain basket to catch grease and food as you pour the soaking water down the drain.
- Deep fat fryers for turkeys leave a large amount of oil. Solidify the grease by mixing it with an absorbent material such as cat litter. Or, soak up excess oil with newspaper and then place it in the trash.



Fats, cooking oils, and grease can coat and clog pipes and cause sewage to back up into homes and businesses.