



# City of Hitchcock

Newsletter June 2021

## THE FACTS ABOUT FATS, OILS, AND GREASE (FOG)

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) represent one of the largest problems for sewer utilities and their customers. Blockages due to coagulated grease in pipes are thought to be the leading cause of sanitary sewer overflows. Sanitary sewer overflows are backups in either the public sewer or residential plumbing. Although often unintentional, the introduction of FOG into the sewer system poses a costly risk to household plumbing and public sewer systems.

While garbage disposals can be useful, the grinding of meat and dairy products or other cooked foods allows grease to be introduced into the sewer system. However, FOG will accumulate and eventually form blockages, often causing sanitary sewer overflows.

### KEEP FOG OUT OF PIPES

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets or garbage disposals.
- Pour grease and oil into a covered disposable container and put into trash.
- Soak up remaining FOG with paper towels, and dispose of with your trash.
- Before washing pans or dishes, scrape fatty food scraps into the trash—not into the sink or garbage disposal.

### DON'T DUMP fats, oils, and grease down the drain! Instead, just...

After cooking, let fats, oils and grease cool in the pan. Pour the cooled fats, oils, and grease into a can. Cover the can with your grease lid, and store it in the freezer. When the can is full, remove the lid and put the can into the trash on your regular trash collection day. Save the lid for the next time you need to dispose fats, oils, and grease from your household.

### DON'T POUR FOG DOWN THE DRAIN!

When FOG cool inside pipes, they can cause clogs that may lead to backups in either your home's pipes or the public sewer system.

Help limit grease build-up by properly disposing of FOG.

Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, then empty the drain basket or strainer into the trash.

### THE ORIGINS OF FOG

Most household grease is a byproduct of cooking and is usually found in:

- Cooking oil
- Sauces
- Butter and margarine
- Lard
- Food scraps
- Dairy products



### MANAGING FOG

#### Don'ts:

- Do not pour residue directly into the drain.
- Do not dispose of food waste into the garbage disposal.
- Do not pour waste oil down the drain.

#### Do's:

- Wipe pots, pans, and work areas prior to washing.
- Dispose of food waste into trash
- Collect waste oil and store for recycling.

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#### DATES TO REMEMBER

- 6/21/2021—6:00PM Regular City Council Meeting at City Hall.
- 7/5/2021—City Offices will be closed for the 4th of July Holiday



## **DRAINAGE FACTS**

Property owners are responsible for maintaining drainage easements located on their property in a neat and clean manner. This may include routine grounds keeping such as grass mowing as well as removal of trash, vegetation, and debris. Owners should ensure that drainage systems and structures are kept free of yard waste (grass clippings, tree trimmings, fallen limbs, and leaves) or other obstructions (privacy fencing or retaining walls) that may block the flow of water.

### **PREVENT SEWER STOPPAGES**

The City needs your help in keeping our sewer system clean and in working order. To avoid sewer stoppages, do **NOT** flush the following items down your toilets or drains.

<b>Diapers</b>	<b>Grease</b>	<b>Baby Wipes</b>
<b>Panties</b>	<b>Contraceptives</b>	<b>Adult Wipes</b>
<b>Paper Towels</b>	<b>Clothing</b>	<b>Gum Wrappers</b>
<b>Facial Tissue</b>	<b>Toys</b>	<b>Candy Wrappers</b>
<b>Cotton Balls</b>	<b>Food</b>	<b>Cleaning Wipes or Rags</b>
<b>Cotton Swabs</b>	<b>Cigarettes</b>	<b>Feminine Hygiene Items</b>
<b>Kitty Litter</b>	<b>Hair</b>	<b>Adhesive Bandages</b>

**All of these may stop or damage the lift station pumps or other equipment.**

### **THE SEWER CLEANOUT**

A **sewer cleanout** is a common name for all the vertical access points to your sewer system, so there is a chance of you having more than one cleanout on your property. There can be both **inside sewer cleanouts** and **outside sewer cleanouts**, as well.

The main purpose of the existence of these cleanouts is to provide you with an easily accessible spot from where you can clean your sewer line from accumulated dirt, wipes or any other clog that could occur. In cases of clogging or any other problem with water pressure in your pipeline or sewer line, without knowing the location and access point of your cleanout, you may be forced to call a plumber for servicing and they will possibly have to remove some of your toilet components to access the pipes.

### **GRASS CLIPPINGS IN THE STREETS**

Citizens are reminded not to blow your grass clippings, leaves and other yard waste into the public streets, gutters and storm drains. Blowing grass clippings into the road is dangerous to drivers, motorcycles, bicyclists, and harms local storm sewers and prevents proper drainage.

It is best to bag your grass clippings to keep them from getting into the public streets and drainage system.

### **HOT ASPHALT—PAWS WILL GET BURNED**

At 125° skin destruction can occur in just 60 seconds. Always check the asphalt prior to allowing your pet to walk on it.

#### **Air Temperature Asphalt Temperature**

77°	125°
86°	135°
87°	143°

If it is too hot for your bare feet it is too hot for theirs.



## GET YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE

Do you have a COVID-19 vaccine related question, need to reschedule a missed appointment or schedule a first dose? Call 409.938.7221 or email [covid19vaccine@gchd.org](mailto:covid19vaccine@gchd.org), Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. and Saturday 8 a.m.-noon.

### Vaccine Homebound Program

The health district is happy to offer COVID-19 vaccines through our homebound program. Anyone who is homebound and would like to receive a vaccine may call the Galveston County Health District at 409.938.7221 or email [covid19vaccine@gchd.org](mailto:covid19vaccine@gchd.org) to schedule an appointment. The Health District's team of nurses and support staff will come to your home to administer the vaccine.

### Vaccine Clinic

Galveston County Health District will host a vaccine clinic every Wednesday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. at the health district, 9850 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway, Suite B in Texas City.

This clinic is open to first and second dose appointments. To schedule an appointment, visit:

<https://us1.quickscreen.health/galveston-county-vaccination#/screening>

If you need assistance scheduling an appointment, please call 409.938.7221 or email [covid19vaccine@gchd.org](mailto:covid19vaccine@gchd.org).

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## AMERIWASTE RECYCLING OPTION

For an additional fee a recycling options with AmeriWaste will begin in July 2021. First pickup day will be Wednesday, July 7th.

Residents interested in participating in the AmeriWaste Recycling Option will need to contact AmeriWaste directly at (281)331-8400 or by email at [customerservice@ameriwaste.net](mailto:customerservice@ameriwaste.net) to set up service.

Trash Cart rentals are also available. Contact AmeriWaste for more information including costs.

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## WATER CONSERVATION TIPS

### Inside the home

- > Never use any more water than necessary to complete a task.
- > Fix leaks on faucets, sinks and toilets.
- > Take short showers instead of baths.
- > Turn off water while brushing teeth or shaving.
- > Install low-flow showerheads and toilets.
- > Keep cold beverages in the refrigerator and use ice only when needed.
- > Keep a container of cold water in the refrigerator instead of waiting for water to cool from faucet.
- > Fill sink half-way to rinse vegetables and fruit instead of rinsing one at a time under running water.
- > Wash dishes by hand instead of using a dishwasher (fill one side of sink with soapy water for washing and the other with clear water for rinsing).
- > If using a dishwasher, make sure you have a full load.
- > When washing clothes, make sure you have a full load; if not, select the correct water level.
- > When cleaning or emptying a fish tank, use the old water to water plants or for on the lawn.

### Outside the Home

- > Water lawn only when needed.
- > Water early in the morning or late at night.
- > Never water when it is windy; this causes water to evaporate and dry quicker.
- > Use drip irrigation for shrubs and flower beds.
- > Use mulch around trees, plants and gardens to hold in moisture.
- > When watering; set a timer, saves from over watering .

## GET INVOLVED

Hitchcock is Accepting Boards and Commissions Applications.

### Economic Development Board:

Meetings are the third Thursday of each month at 5:30pm at the EDC Building.

### Planning & Zoning Commission:

Meetings are the third Tuesday of each month (or less often depending on need) at 5:00pm at City Hall.

### Board of Adjustments:

Meeting are scheduled on an as needed basis at City Hall.

Serving on a City board or commission is an excellent way to serve your community. If you are interested in serving on a board or commission, please complete the on-line application and return to the City or email to the City Manager at [mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org](mailto:mgelles@cityofhitchcock.org). You may attach your resume and any additional material you would like considered with your application.

[http://www.cityofhitchcock.org/departments/city\\_secretary/index.php](http://www.cityofhitchcock.org/departments/city_secretary/index.php)

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## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The City of Hitchcock is looking for volunteers with knowledge of home construction. In order to meet FEMA requirements, after a disaster such as a hurricane, the City must inspect damaged homes to determine the level of damage to each residence.

This is a time consuming task and requires more people than are available on the City of Hitchcock staff.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer in the event of a disaster please contact Heather Hebert in the Permits Department at (409)986-5591 or by email at [hebert@cityofhitchcock.org](mailto:hebert@cityofhitchcock.org).



## PROTECT YOURSELF FROM ZIKA, WEST NILE AND OTHER VIRUSES

**Daytime is the most dangerous**  
Mosquitoes that spread Zika are aggressive daytime biters. They can also bite at night.

**Use Insect repellent It works!**  
Look for the following active ingredients:  
• DEET • PICARIDIN • IR3535  
• OIL of LEMON EUCALYPTUS  
• PARA-MENTHANE-DIOL

**Wear protective clothes**  
Wear long-sleeved shirts and long pants or use insect repellent. For extra protection, treat clothing with permethrin.

**Mosquito-proof your home**  
Use screens on windows and doors. Use air conditioning when available. Keep mosquitoes from laying eggs near standing water.

### HOW TO CONTACT US

NAME	TITLE	E-MAIL	PHONE NUMBER
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FIRE MARSHALL	DARRON RAY	fire@cityofhitchcock.org	(409) 457-6258
ANIMAL CONTROL			(409) 948-2485
MOSQUITO CONTROL			(800) 337-4289
GARBAGE COLLECTION	AMERIWASTE	customerservice@ameriwaste.net	(281) 331-8400
AFTER HOUR WATER/ SEWER/WWTP			(409)795-7595
NON EMERGENCY POLICE			(409)986-5559