

# Sewer Blockages, Backups, and Spills are PREVENTABLE!

## *Other Ways to Help Cut the Fat in Sewer Pipes*

- Use environmentally safe cleaning products instead of harsh detergents and cleaners.
- Drain solids from cooking oil and reuse it as much as possible.
- It is NEVER OKAY TO POUR GREASE DOWN A DRAIN, even with pouring hot water and detergent on top of it. This only temporarily breaks up the grease.

# LET'S KEEP ALEXANDER CITY'S SEWER SYSTEM

## FAT-FREE!



## Contact Us

If you see signs of sewage spill or need help with a sewer pipe that is backing up, call:

City of Alexander City  
Sewer Department  
Phone: 256-409-2000



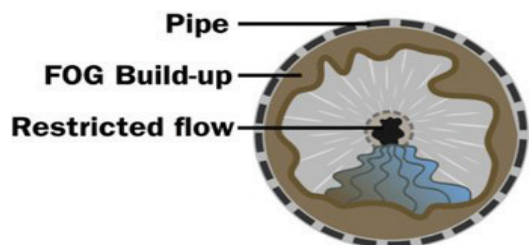
*Help us keep your sewer  
utility rates down!!!*

## Why Worry about the Sewer System Getting Too Much Fat?

Alexander City's sewer system is a network of pipes that lead from each building in the City's service area to transport sewage from toilets and drains to one of the City's two wastewater treatment plants.

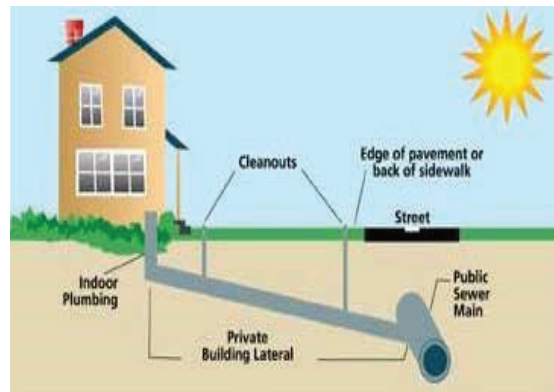
Each building that uses sewer services has a **service lateral**. Service laterals are owned by and the responsibility of the property owner. These connect to a larger pipe called the **main**. The sewer main and other pipes, which are not on private property, are owned and taken care of by the City.

- Sewer pipes are designed and built to carry normal waste discharges away from your home to the sewer treatment plant.
- Grease and drippings from cooking poured down the drain are not normal waste discharges. Cooled grease clogs sewer pipes.
- **Fats, Oil, and Grease poured down kitchen drains causes sewer spills and damages to sewer treatment equipment!**
- If a service lateral is blocked with fat, oil, and grease, the property owner or homeowner is responsible for paying to fix it.



## Why Care About Sewer Spills?

- Greasy clogs cause sewage to back up into homes and even to overflow into the streets, rivers, streams, and lakes in our community.
- Raw wastewater can contain disease-causing bacteria. This can create health hazards for your family, neighbors, or people who live nearby in areas where sewer pipes are blocked and backing up or overflowing.
- Those who pour grease down their drains, likely are the first ones affected by sewer backups.
- Clearing sewer pipes blocked with cooking grease is time consuming and costly for both property owners and the City.



## You CAN Help Keep Our Sewer System Fat-Free and Flowing!



- DO NOT pour fats, oil, or grease from cooking down the drain of any sink.
- Pour grease and drippings into an empty SOUP or VEGETABLE can or another disposable container, such as a milk or juice carton, and throw it in your regular household garbage can once it has cooled.
- Before washing dishes and pans coated with grease, wipe them with a paper towel.
- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them into the dishwasher.
- Cooled, non-liquid grease, greasy paper towels, etc., can be disposed in a municipal solid waste landfill.