

## Keeping Fats, Oils and Grease Out of the Stormwater System...

helps protect our creeks, rivers and lakes from the unsightly and potentially toxic effects of these common byproducts of society.

Fats, Oils and Grease are generated as a result of food preparation, vehicle use and cleaning, oil production activities and industrial applications.

Leaking vehicles, illicit discharges, oil production, spills and sanitary sewer overflows can all contribute to the problem.

Oil and grease toxicity varies according to type (petroleum, animal or plant) and its level of refinement.

Oil and grease can prevent oxygen from entering a surface water and can also create a chemical oxygen demand which consumes dissolved oxygen thereby stressing aquatic systems.

Learn to recognize the difference between a naturally occurring organic or bacterial sheen and a petroleum based sheen representing a true pollutant. For more information, contact your local stormwater coordinator or the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality.

## Additional Resources

Visit the **Green Country Stormwater Alliance (GCSA)** website listed below for more details about stormwater protection, including Best Management Practices (BMPs) and other pollution reduction strategies.



### Contact Information:

For information about Green Country Stormwater Alliance, contact INCOG at 918-584-7526 or by email at [stormwater@incog.org](mailto:stormwater@incog.org).

For local information, contact your city or county stormwater coordinator.

For more information about stormwater protection, contact the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Water Quality Division at 405-702-8100 or visit the DEQ web site at: <https://www.deq.ok.gov/water-quality-division/stormwater/>

For stormwater related complaints, call the DEQ statewide hotline at 1-800-522-0206. This number is answered 24-7. Citizens may fill out an online complaint form at the DEQ web site at <https://www.deq.ok.gov/environmental-complaints/> and submit it electronically to DEQ. The site also provides contact links to DEQ.

Brochure Rev. February 2020



# Fats, Oils and Grease



## FOG





# A Closer Look at FOG

## Fats, Oils and Grease



### Petroleum Based Products

Vehicle fluids like motor oil, fuel, lubricants, hydraulic fluid and coolants are often found in stormwater. Poorly maintained vehicles cause releases of these “illicit discharges”.

Most petroleum products are harmful to aquatic organisms and are toxic to humans.

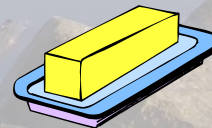
- **Runoff** from streets and parking areas can add significant amounts of pollutants to stormwater collection systems.
- **Petroleum hydrocarbons** are readily absorbed onto particulates and then washed into streams. Best management practices (BMPs) can prevent oil and grease from entering stormwater.
- **Facilities** working with vehicle fluids may need an oil/water separator between drains and sanitary sewers to prevent the discharge of petroleum products.
- **Discharge regulations** prohibit the discharge of materials that produce a sheen on the surface of a receiving water.



### Animal and Plant Based Products

Food-handling locations like restaurants and cafeterias generate fats, oils and grease (“FOG”). Solidified FOG can plug sanitary sewers which overflow at manholes causing sewer system failures and discharges of harmful pollution.

- **Items** such as meat, fish, butter, cooking oil, shortening and gravy can contain considerable amounts of FOG.
- **When warm**, FOG is a liquid, but if poured down a drain it can solidify in cooler pipes and trap other solids creating blockages, backups and sanitary sewer overflows.
- **Commercial kitchens** should have properly functioning grease traps or interceptors to capture FOG discharged to drains before it can enter a sanitary sewer.
- **Grease traps and interceptors** must be pumped out, cleaned and inspected on a regular basis to ensure proper function.



### Keeping FOG out of Stormwater

- **Don't dump** oil, grease or fat down sinks, floor drains or stormwater drains. If not recycled, domestic cooking oil should be poured into a sealable container and placed in the trash.
- **Cover** outdoor grease and oil storage containers, locate them away from storm drains and protect dumpster contents from rain.
- **Recycle** petroleum products (waste motor and transmission oil, coolants, hydraulic fluid, etc.) and cooking oil and grease whenever possible.
- **Clean up** oil spills promptly with absorbents. Place drain pans under leaky machinery.
- **Outside washing** and power washing operations (vehicles, equipment, parking lots) should not allow oils and grease to enter stormwater drains or creeks.
- **Inspect vehicles** for fluid leaks and fix promptly if detected.

