

# **Don't Slow the Flow!**

## **\*Fight the FOG Clear the Clog\***

All across the U.S. the build-up of fats, oils and grease (FOG) in sewer lines is one of the leading causes of sewer blockages. FOG is a by-product of cooking that can be found in: food scraps, meat fats, lard, cooking oil, baked goods, sauces, dairy products, butter or margarine.

FOG blockages in the sewer lines may cause wastewater to backup into homes and businesses. Also, FOG build-up reduces collection system capacity, which may lead to increased combined sewer overflows (CSOs) to the Winooski River during intense rain events.

### **FOG Costs:**

*To your business or home:* As your sewer pipes back up, the sewage and food particles that accumulate can attract insects and other vermin, cause unpleasant odors, and create health hazards. Property damage can also result from sewage backups and lead to expensive cleanup and plumbing repairs. Health code violations or closures can greatly impact your business. Potential fines can be costly.

*To the Environment:* Blocked sewers lead to overflows. As sewage overflows onto streets, it enters the storm drain system and is carried to our local rivers, creating health risks for swimmers and degrading habitat for aquatic life.

*To the City:* Increases sewer blockages and overflows lead to costly maintenance and can result in fines from State regulatory agencies.

### **Make a Change to the Drain:**

- 1) Do not pour fats, oils, and grease down the sink or garbage disposal. Use the trash, not the drain.
- 2) Scrape and wipe pots, pans and dishes before washing.

Cool fats, oils and grease and place them into a container such as an empty glass jar or coffee can. Once the container is full, secure the lid and place it in the trash.

**Changing what goes in the drain prevents overflows, possible damage to your home, business, property, the environment and your pocketbook.**

### **Questions:**

Please call the Montpelier Water Resource Recovery Facility (802)223-9511 and ask for Christopher Cox (Chief Operator) or Matt Lamson (Assistant Chief Operator).

### **Reference:**

*City of Vista, California: Engineering Department*