

Grease build-up in a private sewer lateral can cause severe flow blockage.

WHAT DOES THE CITY ORDINANCE SAY ABOUT GREASE IN THE SEWERS?

The City of Janesville Ordinance Chapter 13.16 regulates use of the City's sewer system. Per ordinance:

13.16.050 General discharge prohibitions.

The discharge, directly or indirectly, into any public sewer or otherwise to the facilities of the utility from any lot, parcel of land, building or premises, or from any discharger, of any of the following materials is expressly prohibited:

A. Water or waste containing fat, oil or grease of such character or quantity that unusual attention or expense is incurred by the utility.

C. Solid or viscous substances in amounts which will or may cause obstruction to the flow in a sewer or other interference with the operation of the wastewater system.

To report a sewer back-up, call the Water Utility at (608) 755-3115 (Monday-Friday, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m.) If the office is closed, call the emergency number, (608) 755-6375.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

The Janesville Water Utility delivers high quality water supply for domestic, commercial, industrial and fire protection purposes at an adequate pressure and in abundant supply to all customers.

We provide emergency maintenance service to reduce inconveniences caused by water main breaks, water service leaks, sewer backups, or other emergencies.

If you would like more information about these and other services offered, please call the Water Utility Department at (608) 755-3115.

If an emergency occurs during non-working hours, residents may reach the emergency maintenance crews by calling (608) 755-6375.

For questions about water and wastewater bills, call the billing department at (608) 755-3090. Utility Billing is located in the Clerk's Office at City Hall, 18 N. Jackson Street.

For questions on wastewater treatment operations or plant tours, please contact the Wastewater Treatment Facility, 3300 W. Tripp Road, at (608) 755-3120.



JANESVILLE

Water & Wastewater
Utilities

Water Utility Services

123 East Delavan Drive
P.O. Box 5005
Janesville, WI 53547

Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 7:00 am to 4:00 pm

(608) 755-3115

Web: www.ci.janesville.wi.us

GREASE-BASED SANITARY SEWER BACK-UPS



A guide for preventing sewer back-ups caused by grease build-up in the sewer mains.



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SANITARY SEWER BACK-UPS: FATS, OILS AND GREASE

What causes grease back-ups?

If not disposed of properly, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually from the kitchen sink. The grease sticks to the inside of the sanitary sewer lines — the internal pipes of your residence or business and the City's sewer mains. The grease continues to emulsify and accumulate over time to the point where flow is greatly restricted or even completely blocked. Fat, oil and grease blockages are costly and unpleasant to clean.

Sources of fats, oils and grease in the sewer system are:

- Meat fats;
- Cooking oils including lard, shortening, butter and margarine;
- Dairy products; and
- Food scraps.



Never pour grease, oil or fats down your drain.

What can I do to prevent this?

Following a few simple guidelines will greatly reduce the amount of grease entering the sanitary sewer system.

- *Never* pour fats, oils or grease down your drain — including sink drains, floor drains and toilets.
- Put cooled grease in a heat-resistant container and dispose of in the garbage.
- Garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. Garbage disposals are designed only to grind solid material into smaller pieces; use sparingly.
- Detergents that claim to dissolve grease only allow it to pass farther down the sanitary line. The grease will eventually emulsify and create a blockage farther down the main. This blockage may still affect your line.
- Scrape food scraps and grease from pots, pans and dishes before washing. Grease from a dishwasher also enters the sewer system. You can use paper towels to dry wipe grease from dishes. Dispose of the scraps and greasy paper towels in the garbage.



Pour cooled grease in a can and place in your garbage.

For Businesses: Grease Interceptors are Regulated

Grease interceptors are generally not required for residential dwellings.

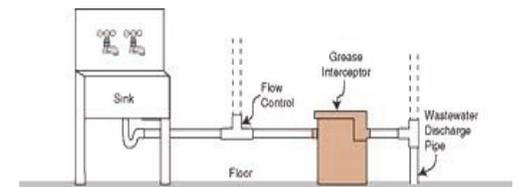
Contact the plumbing inspector at (608) 755-3060 to see if your business requires a grease interceptor.

13.16.070 Pretreatment *When required.*

B. 4. *Existing Installations.* The Director or Plumbing Inspector may require the installation of exterior or interior grease interceptors for existing plumbing installations where the waterway of a drain system or sewer system is reduced or filled due to congealed grease, or where congealed grease otherwise impairs the proper functioning of the sewer system.

5. *Exterior Grease Interceptors.* Exterior grease interceptors shall receive the entire waste discharge from kitchens or food processing areas. All exterior interceptors shall be designed, constructed, and installed in accordance with the standards contained in the City and State plumbing codes.

6. *Maintenance and Records Retention.* The User shall maintain a written record of inspection and maintenance for seven years. All such records will be made available for on-site inspection by representatives of the Utility during all operating hours.



Grease interceptors prevent grease from entering the sewer mains.