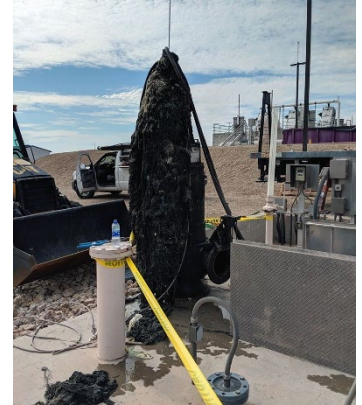


## Wipes clog pipes

Please help keep sewer systems flowing smoothly by only flushing toilet paper and human waste. Just because an item says it can be flushed does not mean it should be. Many of the items marketed as disposable and/or flushable do not degrade like toilet paper. These items wind up clogging pipes, tangling pumps and causing messy sewer backups into streets, businesses and homes. When in doubt, use the garbage.



*Photo courtesy of Surprise, AZ*

## The facts on FOG

Any business that prepares or serves food is likely aware that it should have and regularly maintain a grease trap or a grease interceptor to assist in keeping harmful items out of the sewer system.

The term “grease” is misleading. A better term is FOG, which stands for Fats, Oils and Grease. FOG is much more encompassing than just bacon grease or frying oil. FOG is made up of oils from vegetables, fats in milk products and everything in between. Basically, if an item is a vegetable or animal product or by-product, it contains FOG.

The intent of grease traps and interceptors is to “trap” the FOG within the device before entering the sewer system. FOG in the sewer is analogous to fat in human arteries; it can cause blockages, backups, releases and other issues. This can happen within a food service business, within a home or throughout the city. If these devices are not properly serviced and maintained, they can cause expensive issues and be a risk to public and environmental health and safety.

When every person and every establishment does its part, the risk of FOG in the sewer system can be minimized. The following is a list of easy, no-cost practices to keep FOG out of the sewer.

- Scrape and dry-wipe plates, flatware, pots, pans, cookware and other items to remove food, debris and residual oil or grease. Place these FOG containing items into the trash before washing.

- Pour frying oil into a designated receptacle. Commercial bins are available for businesses. Individuals can pour the oil into a can or jar and throw it into the trash or take used fryer oil to the [Household Products Collection Center](#) for recycling.
  - Do not use cleaning agents that contain degreasers. These may initially break up the grease, but the grease will reform further down the line, which can cause significant issues.
  - Install one-quarter-inch removable screens in all sinks and drains; remove for frequent cleaning and throw all debris into the trash.
  - Businesses with FOG devices should make sure the device is properly maintained. Joining the [City of Tempe Grease Cooperative](#) will assist with managing device service.
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## ADEQ Updates

- Construction sites greater than one acre should be aware that ADEQ issued the 2020 Construction General Permit (CGP) on March 27. The 2013 CGP expires on June 30, 2020 and will be replaced with the 2020 CGP that becomes effective on July 1, 2020.

Existing permittees (those with coverage under the 2013 permit) have between July 1, 2020, and Aug. 31, 2020, to submit a Notice of Intent (NOI) using the [myDEQ portal](#). For information about the CGP and to see the new permit, visit <https://azdeq.gov/AZPDES/CGP>

- The EPA announced in January 2020 the Navigable Waters Protection Rule that contains a new definition of Waters of the United States ([WOTUS](#)). ADEQ currently is reviewing the rule in detail to ensure a full understanding of how it affects Arizona. The new rule narrows protection for some Arizona waterways. ADEQ is launching a community engagement program, seeking input about how "Waters of Arizona" should be protected.

Learn more about the process at <https://azdeq.gov/woaz>

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If anything other than stormwater is running in the street or to a catch basin, please report it [online](#) or call 480-350-4311. The issue will be investigated and the discharger will be educated.

Preventive measures or best management practices reduce materials to stormwater exposure, limiting the amounts of pollutants available to be picked up by stormwater. Be Stormwater Smart and assist Tempe in reducing pollutants in stormwater runoff see [www.tempe.gov/stormwater](http://www.tempe.gov/stormwater) and remember...



**Only Rain Down the Storm Drain**