

# Fats, Oil, and Grease..... #1 Sewer Back-up Causes

## Understanding Fats, Oil, and Grease

Although Grease and Oil are natural byproducts of food processing and preparation, these products often lead to clogged drains, sewer line blockages/back-ups and unpleasant odors. Grease and Oil do not mix with water therefore; it floats on top of the water accumulating inside pipes from the top down. Fats, Oils, and Grease include the following: frying oil, salad oil, meat drippings, bacon fat, greasy leftovers, shortening and lard.

There are no QUICK solutions for grease elimination. Chemicals, surfactants (soaps), solvents, or mechanical cleaning do not solve the problem but simply reposition the grease causing further problems down the line.

Wastewater from restaurants and other commercial food services differ from residential in regards to volume and higher strength. The following data in Table 1 shows an average flow from food service and residential BOD, Oil and Grease, and total suspended solids.

TYPE OF WASTE-Water	BOD mg/L	Oil & Grease mg/L	TSS mg/L
RAW (Restaurant)	1000-2000	100-300	300-625
PRE-TREATED (Restaurant)	350 avg.	65 avg.	170 avg.
DOMESTIC (Residential)	100-400 avg	16-65 avg	100-350 avg

## Contact Information

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**WILAKO WASTEWATER  
TREATMENT PLANT**

## Grease Problems.....

- Sewage Back-ups and Overflows
- Rotten Odors
- Expensive Clean-up
- Potential contact with disease causing microorganisms
- Higher maintenance and operating costs
- Potentially higher sewer rates

## How to have grease-free sewers?

- No grease down drains or toilets.
- Use strainers in sinks. Scrape grease material and food scraps from all cookware and dishware into trash cans for disposal.. Wipe all cookware and dishes before washing.
- No greasy food scrapes in the garbage disposal

Please contact Wilako Wastewater Treatment Facility for questions, comments, or any further information regarding our Grease Eradication Program.