

MUD 113 Newsletter

April, 2019

Proper Disposal of Food Waste

The following article was submitted by Leslie McGaha, a Woodforest resident who is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP) and employed locally as an HS&E Manager. We encourage contributions from residents on topics of relevance to MUD 113 activities.

We had a pretty good BBQ pulled pork last week. I had a new recipe and used the good 'ole crock pot and ended up with a nice, low-stress, tender pork sandwich. The only problem was the cleanup. That pulled pork is not a low-fat cut!

The problem is getting rid of the fat in the leftover liquid. I know that fats, oils, and grease shouldn't go down my drain; so I collected the liquids, refrigerated it overnight, and then skimmed off the solid fat and threw that into the trash. I didn't want to dump that down the drain!



According to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ), all that stuff can be grouped together as something called FOG: fats, oils, and grease

Keeping Fats, Oils, and Grease out of the Sewer System

Fats, oils, and grease—FOG—comes from meat fats in food scraps, cooking oil, shortening, lard, butter and margarine, gravy, and food products such as mayonnaise, salad dressings, and sour cream.

FOG poured down kitchen drains accumulates inside sewer pipes. As the FOG builds up, it restricts the flow in the pipe and can cause untreated wastewater to back up into homes!

MUD 113 spent \$7,500 this past year removing some sizable rag balls from the aeration basin as well as cleaning the on-site lift station. Another \$4,000 was spent cleaning the off-site lift stations.

So, keeping FOG out of the sewer system helps everyone in Woodforest.

Reducing Fats, Oils, and Grease in Your Home

Reducing the fats, oils, and grease (FOG) going down your kitchen sink helps prevent sewer problems.

Do

- Recycle used cooking oil or properly dispose of it by pouring it into a sealable container and placing the sealed container in the trash. If you have a lot of oil to dispose of, use clay cat litter. Just mix the grease into the litter then dispose of it in your regular trash.
- Scrape food scraps into the trash, not the sink.
- Place a catch basket or screen over the sink drain to catch small scraps that would otherwise be washed down the drain. Throw the scraps in the trash.
- Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher. Hot water melts the fats, oils, and grease (FOG) off the dishes and into the sewer pipes; where it later cools and may clog the pipes.

Don't

- Don't use a garbage disposal or food grinder for everything. Grinding food up before rinsing it down the drain does not remove FOG; it just makes the pieces smaller. Even non-greasy food scraps can plug your home's sewer lines. So, don't put food down the drain.
- Don't pour cooking oil, pan drippings, bacon grease, salad dressings, or sauces down the sink.
- Don't flush any type of wipe down the commode. Even flushable wipes only break down into smaller pieces. This gives FOG something to cling to and build up more quickly.

If you have questions, refer to the original article here: https://www.tceq.texas.gov/assistance/water/wastewater/fog/home_fog.html

Remember to Notify Municipal Operations Consulting of Move Plans

The MUD 113 Facilities Operator is Municipal Operations Consulting (MOC). Each month they bill district residents a fee of \$47.55 to cover sewer system operations as well as trash pickup. The current breakdown of this fee is \$18.79 per household for Waste Management pickup of regular and recycle trash every Friday plus \$28.76 for sewer related expenses. MOC does MUD 113 a favor by collecting the trash cost for us as a pass-through payment to Waste Management.

It is very important to notify MOC of both move-in and move-out events. New residents are aware of the need to set up a transfer of electric, water, gas, and internet utility services but often forget to include MOC in this loop. The same is true for residents who move away. Forgetting to inform them will cause the \$47.55 charge to accumulate against their account rather than be transferred to the new owner. Please remember to call MOC at 281-367-5511 to inform them of your move plans.