

## **GREASE MANAGEMENT FOR HOMEOWNERS**

Public Services Director Scharmen reports that grease is one of the major causes of messy and costly sewer backups into the home and the City of Indian Rocks Beach Sanitary Sewer System.

### **WHERE DOES GREASE COME FROM?**

Grease comes from certain foods, including:

- ✓ Lard
- ✓ Shortening
- ✓ Oils
- ✓ Butter/Margarine
- ✓ Suces
- ✓ Baked Goods
- ✓ Meats

### **WHAT DOES GREASE DO WHEN IT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN?**

Grease clings to the inside of your household plumbing and the sewer pipes of the sanitary sewer collection system. The buildup on the inside of the pipes progressively decreases the pipes' diameter, allowing less and less water to pass through. At this stage, you may notice a "slow drain", which is often the first sign of a potential clog. Ultimately, the grease will block the entire pipe.

This may cause an overflow of raw sewage, either at the origin of the clog (the home), a neighbor's home, or onto a local street. Raw sewage may contain disease-causing organisms, and therefore must be cleaned up and disposed of immediately.

### **HELPFUL HINTS FOR PROPER DISPOSAL OF HOUSEHOLD GREASE AND FOOD WASTE !**

- ✓ Keep a basket or strainer in your drain to catch food scraps and other solid waste.
- ✓ Once it cools, pour grease and fat into a container or jar. Place the container in a plastic bag and dispose of it in the regular trash.
- ✓ Scrape cooking scraps into a trash can rather than washing them down a drain, or garbage disposal.
- ✓ Carefully read and follow the directions when using consumer products to clear a clog. If used improperly, consumer products may result in an even bigger, more costly problem.
- ✓ Should a clog develop in your home plumbing, contact a licensed plumber.

If it is determined that a clog has developed in the City of Indian Rocks Beach sanitary sewer system (generally anything adjacent to the curb or sidewalk), the City will clear out the clog as quickly and safely as possible.

For assistance, please contact the Public Services Department @ 727/595-6889, Monday through Friday.