

## Spring Water Conservation Tips!

In the spring, there are several precautions that can help you save water and prevent damage to your property and landscaping.

- 1.) Inspect outdoor pipes to make sure that they did not freeze and break in the winter. Pay special attention to irrigation cut off valves and backflow prevention devices.
- 2.) Add mulch to base of trees, shrubs and perennial flowering plants.
- 3.) Fertilize to promote strong root system and drought tolerant plants.
- 4.) Report all water leaks immediately to our Service Center at 646-6000. Crews are on call 24 hours a day.

**City of Brownwood**  
P.O. Box 1389  
501 Center Ave.  
Brownwood, TX 76804

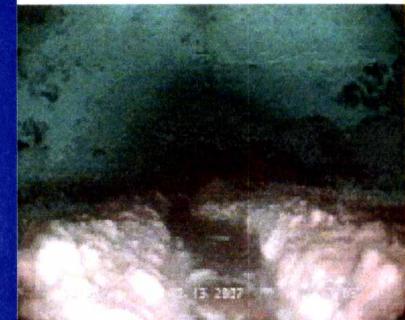
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***"Grease is our worst enemy!"***

***Your Sewers***



**Good!**



**Bad!**

**Information  
provided by the  
City of Brownwood  
Utility Department**

## *Why worry about grease, who cares?*

The answer is the person with sewage in their bathroom or yard. City of Brownwood responds to an average of two calls a day where the customers toilets or drains are slow, caused by a restriction or a total blockage of the main. Over 3/4 of the time there are large amounts of grease at the point of the blockage. Pictures on the front show just what grease does when it cools in the mains. Many people believe that if you run some hot water with the grease it doesn't cause any problems. Water doesn't stay hot forever and as soon as the grease cools, it sticks to anything that it touches. Not only does it cause blockages but it significantly increases the amount of treatment needed at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Remember that when you are dumping grease down the drain, it could end up in your neighbors floor, the streets or alleys of Brownwood or in the water ways of Texas. To quote a nationwide public relations campaign, "We all live downstream", could not be more true when it comes to grease. What you dump could end up on your neighbors and they can dump it on you. Be a good neighbor and keep grease where it belongs, in the trash.

## *What can I do to help?*

### *Do's and Don'ts*

**Don't** put cooking grease and oil down the drain. **Do** let the grease cool, place it in a can or old container, and put it in the trash.

**Don't** rinse out skillets in the sink. **Do** wipe them with a paper towel and put it in the trash.

Grease from Fish and Turkey Fryers should be treated the same. **Don't** dump the grease in storm drains, ditches or alley ways. This will cause odors, lure stray animals and most importantly taint the waterways and streams in our state. **Do** let the grease cool and put in the trash with household grease. Make sure all of the grease is contained or it will cause the dumpsters to have a terrible odor.



Cooking establishments are required to have grease traps. They are also required to maintain them and have them pumped on a regular basis. Failure to do so can result in surcharges and bills for cleaning the mains downstream of a failing grease trap.

## *Are there other ways I can help?*

Yes, grease causes more of a problem when it has something to stick to. The things that sewer cleaning system equipment retrieves are a wide range of items. Shop towels, Barbie Dolls, Happy Meal toys, marbles, hair clips, keys, pool balls, underwear, coke bottles, cigarette packages, etc... It is amazing that the sewer system works at all with what gets flushed. If each of these items were placed in the trash instead of the toilet, our emergency calls would drop dramatically.

Currently, the City of Brownwood has over **\$250,000** in specialized cleaning and evaluation equipment, to remedy grease and trash problems. This volume of equipment would not be necessary if we take precautions to keep the trash in the trash can.

To report water or sewer problems please call 646-6000, anytime. Crews are standing by to help. Please help them by doing your part. If everyone does their part to keep grease and trash out of the sewers, it will go a long way to keeping sewer rates affordable and our downstream neighbors happy. Free information on reducing grease, water conservation and Xeriscape is available at city hall with other free resources. Thanks for your help.