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Dallas Water Utilities Urges Dallas Residents to “Cease the Grease”

DALLAS – Dallas Water Utilities (DWU) is calling on Dallas residents to “Cease the Grease” and not pour fats, oils and grease (FOG) down the drain. Through its citywide education and awareness grease abatement program, DWU wants residents to understand that FOG doesn’t stop at the kitchen sink.

Approximately 60-70 percent of blockages in the city of Dallas occur because of FOG, and by taking a few simple steps, the problem can be avoided.

“Grease-related blockages and overflows have been increasing over the years due to the improper disposal of grease by Dallas residents, especially those that live in apartment complexes,” said Helen Cantril Dulac, environmental coordinator with DWU. “With our ‘Cease the Grease’ campaign, we hope to raise awareness of the damage that can be caused by pouring grease down your kitchen sink.”

Placing fats, oils and grease down the kitchen sink can result in blockages in city sanitary sewer lines and homeowner pipes, property damage, foul odors and road closures due to pipe repairs. These issues are exceptionally high during the holiday season, when fried turkeys, hams and other traditional foods involving FOG are prepared.

The terms “oil” and “grease” are often used interchangeably, but they are actually very different substances. Grease, for example, is the solid white residue left over in the cooled pan after frying bacon. Oil, such as vegetable oil, is the liquid left over from frying foods and never turns into a solid.

By using strainers to catch food scraps, refraining from using the garbage disposal and collecting cooking grease in a sealed container for disposal, Dallas residents can stop FOG from polluting the city’s sewer pipes and drains and can reduce individual plumbing costs. Large amounts of used cooking oil, which the City will accept at various locations in Dallas, can even be recycled to make biodiesel.

Proper disposal of FOG ultimately prevents grease buildups from blocking sewer lines, stops sanitary sewer overflows into streets and storm drains, lessening city construction and traffic that results from maintenance, saves taxpayer money spent on costly cleanups of sewage spills and protects the quality of Dallas’ water.

As part of DWU’s overall efforts, the campaign will involve an advertising program during the holiday season and community relations outreach initiatives, particularly in target areas with a high concentration of apartment buildings.

For additional information on the “Cease the Grease” program, please visit Dallas Water Utilities’ Grease Abatement Program Web site at <http://ceasethegrease.com>

The “Cease the Grease” Grease Abatement Program, administered by Dallas Water Utilities, is a citywide educational public outreach program that encourages Dallas residents to properly dispose of fats, oil and grease. DWU’s goals are to increase awareness of the consequences of improper grease disposal and the damage it causes and to provide educational tools and information to help alleviate these problems.

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