

The Drain Report

Grease and Sewers Don't Mix

By Ken Kase

Nobody I know is fond of grease. The grease I am talking about is grease from food sources, not automotive (petroleum) grease. People don't want to eat it. It is no fun to clean off dishes and cooking utensils. It can be bad for your health. It can also clog your sewer or the sewer serving your neighborhood.

If liquid grease is dumped down the drain, it will adhere to the walls of the sewer pipe. It may take many layers of grease to build up to the point where it will finally block off the flow of the sewer. When that happens your drains will stop working and you will pay big bucks to have someone come out and unclog your pipes. Sometimes the grease will clog the main sewer out in the street. When that happens it can cause flooding and property damage to you and your neighbors. If it can be determined where the grease came from, the source of the grease can be held liable for the damages. Grease can leave a trail right from the problem to the source and pipeline video equipment can detect and record the evidence.



This is what grease does to your sewer.



Everybody would be better off if the grease is kept out of the sewer in the first place. Simply scraping and wiping your dirty dishes and pans into the trash, prior to cleaning can help keep grease out. Obviously, you should never directly dump liquid grease or oil down your drain. Small quantities of residential grease or oil can be drained into an unbreakable container that can be tightly sealed. Then throw it in the trash. Never drain a deep fat fryer down the drain.

Grease can cause problems for the trash haulers and solid waste facilities as well. If you want to do what is best for everybody concerned collect your cooking oil and grease and recycle it. It can be used to make products like livestock feed or biodiesel. It is possible for you to turn the grease problem into an alternative fuel, which is a solution to the fuel shortage problem. If you want to recycle, I recommend contacting Standard Biodiesel at (206) 388-3869 or try their website (<http://www.standardbiodiesel.com/>) for information on drop-off sites or for home pick-up (for larger amounts). This is a free service with no minimum amount.

If you insist on throwing cooking grease and oil in the trash, mix it with an absorbent such as kitty litter or dirt to make the oil solid before disposing of it in the garbage. If you have a large amount, do this over several collection days. For assistance with the proper disposal of all sorts of household waste that can be hazardous, visit the King County Local Hazardous Waste website at <http://www.govlink.org/hazwaste/house/index.cfm>.

Restaurants and commercial kitchens are expected to control their grease and oil by using best management practices (BMP's) as well as pretreatment devices such as grease interceptors. The responsible restaurants have their grease interceptors maintained on a regular schedule.

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Special points of interest:

- Midway Sewer District has one of the lowest monthly rates in the state.
- The Board meets the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month. Please contact the office for the meeting time.
- Midway serves the Cities of Des Moines, SeaTac, Kent, Federal Way, Normandy park, Burien, and the Port of Seattle's SeaTac Airport.
- There has not been a rate increase since 2005!
- You can expect fast personal service when you need it.
- Our employees care about their customers.
- We have a single focus of providing quality sanitary sewer service and have been in business since 1946.

Maintaining What We Have By: George Landon

Infrastructure is the backbone of America. Our roads, highways, bridges, and utility systems are vital to our economy and our day to day existence. We must not ignore our infrastructure. Bad things will happen if we fail to maintain and improve our infrastructure. This task is enormous. At the Midway Sewer District, we are continually monitoring and maintaining the infrastructure that has been placed in our care.



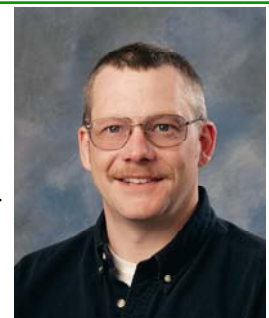
Based on pipeline video inspection the District has decided that many of the sewers in the Salt Air Hills area of the District should be replaced. Preparation of plans and specifications for this replacement work is underway. We plan on replacing approximately 16,500 lineal feet of 50 year old asbestos cement (AC) piping and also 50 manholes. It is hoped that a trenchless replacement technique such as pipe bursting can be used to replace about 5,500 lineal feet of sewer main. Another 5,000 feet of sewer main will be replaced using traditional open cut methods. The remaining 6,000 lineal feet of piping to be replaced is the stub sewers, residing between the main and the property line.

It is estimated that this project will cost \$4,450,000. The Washington State Public Works Trust Fund is expected to loan up to 85% of the estimated cost. The total loan could be as much as \$3,782,500. The term of the loan is 20 years and the interest rate is 0.5%. By utilizing generous loans such as this, the District is putting to work money this community has contributed via State taxes over the years back into the community for the benefit of the community.

How To Learn More About What Midway Does For You

By: Marc Montieth

In an effort to help the rate payers understand the role of their sewer district, Brock Powell, Inspector at Midway Sewer District conducted an informational seminar at the Des Moines Senior Center. Brock enjoys speaking with the community on the role the District plays, along with his many duties as an Inspector. If you would like to schedule a seminar or just talk to Brock he can be reached at (206) 824-4960 or by email at brock@midwaysewer.org.



Brock Powell
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Midway Sewer District

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