

PROTECT OUR PIPES

DIGITAL TOOLKIT FOR PARTNERS

DO YOUR PART TO PROTECT OUR PIPES!

In Houston, 70% of sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) are caused by clogs from fats, oils and grease (FOG) that are poured down the drain and wipes flushed down toilets. This often causes untreated wastewater to back up into our streets and homes, harming the environment and our health.

Each year, when temperatures decrease, Houston Public Works responds to twice as many SSOs due to blockages caused by grease, oils, and fats. We attribute this to two main causes:

- During the holiday season there is a significant increase in cooking large meals for family and friends. As a result, more grease is generated compared to other times in the year.
- The colder weather causes grease to quickly solidify while in the pipes. This means that even a little bit of grease poured down your drain can cause a bigger issue.

HOW TO PREVENT SSOs DURING THE HOLIDAYS AND BEYOND

Whether you are cooking tamales or turkeys, it is important to remember to put grease in its place – the trash. Follow these three easy steps:

1. Pour fats, oils and grease into a safe container
2. Cool in the fridge
3. Toss in the trash

And remember – only flush the 3 P's: Pee, Poo and (Toilet) Paper! Wipes clog pipes!



RESOURCES

Protect Our Pipes characters, Sammy, Ruby and Martin, offer additional tools to help Protect Our Pipes:

Videos

- [PSA Video](#) – embed in your Newsletter, share on website
- [5 second Video](#) – post on social media
- Additional videos on [Houston Public Work's YouTube Page](#).

Graphics & Social Media

Print and hand out or hang up in your community

- [Flyer/Poster](#) (English and Spanish)
- Protect Our Pipes Infographic- [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- Protect Our Pipes Frequently Asked Questions- [English](#) / [Spanish](#)
- Protect Our Pipes [Bathroom Stall Sign](#)
- Protect Our Pipes translated resources- [Spanish](#) / [Mandarin](#) / [Vietnamese](#) / [Arabic](#)
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Want to Request a Presentation?

- Email ProtectOurPipes@houstontx.gov

