

Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) News Advisory

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Make MAWSS' "It's Easy to be Ungreasy" Grease Recycling Program a Holiday Tradition



Fried turkey, dressing, gravy - holiday cooking means lots of cooking grease. Mobile Area Water and Sewer System (MAWSS) reminds you not to put that grease down the drain. Instead, join the thousands who have found "It's Easy to be Ungreasy" when you recycle your used cooking grease with MAWSS' grease recycling program.

It's easy to participate. Just pick up a free grease container at one of the convenient locations around Mobile. Fill it with your used cooking grease, return it and get another. To be even greener, recycle your own leak proof container. MAWSS is happy to accept your grease in any sealed, leak proof container, including peanut oil containers, for those planning to fry holiday turkeys. The grease is made into useful products like industrial lubricants, animal feed and biodiesel fuel. Best of all, by recycling your grease, you help prevent messy sewer overflows that are caused by grease blockages in the sewer system.

"Grease blockages are caused by pouring cooking grease, butter, oil and other forms of fats down the kitchen sink," said Barbara Shaw, MAWSS Public Affairs Manager. "Some people mistakenly think that running hot water as they wash grease down the drain prevents problems, but it doesn't. The grease eventually cools in the sewer system forming blockages that cause the sewer to back up, resulting in costly, messy sewer problems," she said.

She reminds people to wipe out pots, pans and dishes with a paper towel before washing to eliminate even more grease.

Since the program started in October 2006, MAWSS has collected close to 56-thousand gallons of grease and seen a steady decrease in the number of sanitary sewer overflows caused by grease blockages, more than a seventy percent drop. The program was awarded a National Environmental Achievement Award in 2010 from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies.

“It’s making a positive difference for our environment, and we want people to continue to do it, throughout the holiday season,” said Shaw.

MAWSS has 20 grease recycling locations where you can pick up or drop off your grease containers. They’re located at all Mobile area Greer’s stores, most Circle K stores, Keep Mobile Beautiful Recycling Center and both MAWSS offices on Catherine St. and Moffett Rd. For a location near you visit our website, www.itseasytobeungreasy.com or call 694-3100.