

# Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS)

## News Advisory

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### MAWSS Grease Recycling a Holiday Tradition

Mobile Area Water & Sewer System (MAWSS) hopes Mobile area cooks will find that “It’s Easy to be Ungreasy” this holiday season by using its popular cooking grease recycling program when preparing holiday fare. MAWSS is urging everyone to pick up a free recycling container at one of their 20 recycling sites around the city, fill it with used cooking grease, return it and get another. It’s easy! MAWSS also accepts grease in other sealed, leak proof containers, such as peanut oil used for turkey frying. The program is making a significant difference in reducing the number of grease related sewer problems.

Grease, fats and oil are in many holiday dishes including meat, gravies, desserts and salad dressings. “People mistakenly think that they can wash it down the drain with hot water, but that’s not the case,” said Barbara Shaw, MAWSS Public Affairs Manager. “It may get through their pipes, but once it gets into the sewer line, it hardens and begins coating the pipe. It can build up over time, causing a blockage that can result in a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO).”

Since MAWSS began the recycling program in 2006, more than 21,000 gallons of grease has been recycled into industrial lubricants, animal feed and biodiesel fuel. Even better news is that the number of grease related sewer overflows have fallen by nearly 70 percent since the program was implemented.

Year	Grease SSO’s Reaching Water
2006	51
2007	43
2008	17
2009	18
2010	11
2011* thru October	14

“The program is helping to protect the environment which was our goal,” said Shaw. “As we start the holiday cooking season, we encourage everyone to “be ungreasy” by recycling their used cooking grease.”

Grease recycling containers are available at both MAWSS locations, 207 N. Catherine St. and MAWSS Park Forest Plaza, 4725 Moffett Rd., Keep Mobile Beautiful Recycling Center, Mobile area Greer’s Food Stores and many Circle K Stores. For a complete list of locations, visit [www.itseasytobeungreasy.com](http://www.itseasytobeungreasy.com) or call 694-3100 and select option 9.