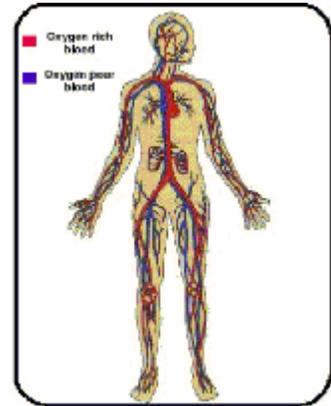


## Fats, Oils, and Grease Clog More than Arteries

Greasy foods can be unhealthy for your body. But did you know that fats, oils, and grease are bad for your plumbing system, too?

- **Use a grease can.** Never pour grease or cooking oil down the sink drain or into the toilet. Instead, pour grease and oil into a can. You can store the can in the freezer until it is full. Then, just toss it in the trash. Opened soup or vegetable cans work well for storage purposes.
- **Scrape dishes before washing.** Don't put grease and food scraps down the drain, even if you have a garbage disposal. Scrape grease and food scraps from pots, pans, and plates into the trash for disposal. Put a basket or strainer in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids; empty the contents of the basket or strainer into the trash.
- **Maintain grease traps and grease interceptors.** Restaurants with grease traps or grease interceptors should ensure that they are inspected and cleaned regularly. Grease traps and interceptors are specifically designed to prevent grease from entering the sanitary sewer system, but they must be cleaned regularly to be effective. Use 25% rule - clean when 25% full of grease and solids.



Property owners are responsible for maintaining and repairing the plumbing and sewer lateral extending from the building to the property line. If you have a sewer stoppage on your private property, it is your responsibility to remedy the situation. Public Works is responsible for the sanitary sewer collection system from the property line to the treatment facilities maintained by the Hampton Roads Sanitation District.

If you suspect a stoppage in the sanitary sewer main or service lateral, please call the Department of Public Works at 365-4200. Together we can keep our pipes clean.