

Grease Myths Debunked

We've all heard them. We may even believe them. Grease myths are as common as urban legends. Here are a few of the most common myths about grease and drains.

It's ok to pour grease down the drain as long as . . .

. . . I use the garbage disposal. Myth. The garbage disposal only grinds up items before passing them into your sewer pipes.

. . . I chase it down with a dose of dish soap. Myth. It's true that soap breaks up grease. You see it happen every time you wash your dishes. But what you don't see is what happens in your sewer pipes. Eventually, soap loses its effectiveness and grease solidifies and congeals on pipe walls.

. . . I run hot water. Myth. This myth is similar in logic to chasing grease down the drain with soap. Eventually, the water will cool, and the grease will solidify.

. . . it is a liquid at room temperature. Myth. Liquid cooking oils like canola and olive oil float on wastewater and easily adhere to sewer pipes. The oily film can collect food particles and other solids and begin to create a blockage.

TRUTH: The best way to dispose of cooking oil and grease is to pour it into a heat-safe container and store it in the freezer. On trash day, throw the hardened grease away. If you use very little oil while cooking, simply wipe the cooled pan clean with paper towels.