

FAT-FREE SEWERS

Fats, Oils, & Greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for sewers too. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment.

Where does the grease come from?

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat Fats, Food Scraps, Dairy Products
- Lard, Cooking Oil, Shortening, Sauces
- Butter and Margarine, Baking Goods

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be

paid for by you, the homeowner;

- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets;
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms; and
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

What we can do to help

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

There are several ways to do this.

- Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash.

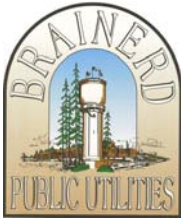
Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call BPU's Wastewater Treatment Plant at 825-3237 or 825-3240.

H₂O

The original health drink



Water is the original health drink. It contains no fat, no calories, no cholesterol, no caffeine, and no fats or sugars, every glass of water you drink nourishes your body and mind.



BRainerd PUBLIC UTILITIES POLICY 2008-15 Adopted 12/30/08

NON-SUFFICIENT FUND CHECKS AND ACH PAYMENTS

If a check made payable to Brainerd Public Utilities (BPU) is returned for non-sufficient funds (NSF) or the account has been closed, or if a customer has their utility bill paid by ACH, and notification is sent for non-sufficient funds or the account has been closed, the following procedures will take place.

- **BPU will send a notice, by regular mail, to the check issuer when a check or ACH is returned for NSF from a financial institution. The notice shall contain language of MN Statute 609.535 pertaining to issuance of dishonored checks.**
- **Restitution has to be made within five (5) business days and must be paid by money order or cash. There will also be an additional \$30 service charge. There are no arrangements allowed when a NSF check is received.**
- **If restitution is not made within the required time, the electric service will be disconnected at the service address where the check was issued. Before the service will be reconnected, the NSF check, \$30 service charge, entire balance of account, a deposit, if one has not been previously paid, and a reconnect fee will have to be paid.**
- **If more than two (2) checks or ACHs are returned to BPU within a twelve (12) month period, all future utility payments will have to be paid by money order or cash. However, if a customer signs up for the automatic bill payment plan in lieu of paying the required utility deposit, and an ACH or recurring credit card is returned to BPU within the first twelve (12) months of service, the customer will automatically be taken off bank pay and will have to pay the required utility deposit, along with the other required charges.**