



# PIPES

## HOW TO KEEP THEM FLOWING

## FOG CLOGS PIPES



FATS, OILS, & GREASE

**FOG: Fats, Oils, and Grease.** Pouring fats, oils, and grease down the drain or garbage disposal creates blockages in underground pipes. This creates serious problems like blockages and sewer overflows.




**FOG** is one of the leading causes of sewer overflows and blockages. Grease sticks to sewer pipes when washed down the sink. It builds up over time and can clog entire pipelines. This causes sewer backups and overflows in the community.



### FOG DØN'Ts:


-  Do not pour cooking oil or greasy foods down the drain.
-  Do not use hot water and soap to wash grease down the drain. It cools and hardens in the sewer lines.

### FOG DOs:

-  Use strainers to catch food scraps and empty them into the trash.
-  Scrape food from pots, pans, and dishes into the trash before placing them in the sink.
-  Wipe excess fats and grease from pans with a cloth or paper towel and throw it away.

## WIPES CLOG PIPES



**“Flushable”** does not mean it is safe for your sewer or septic system. 

**Wipes** should be discarded in the trash, along with...

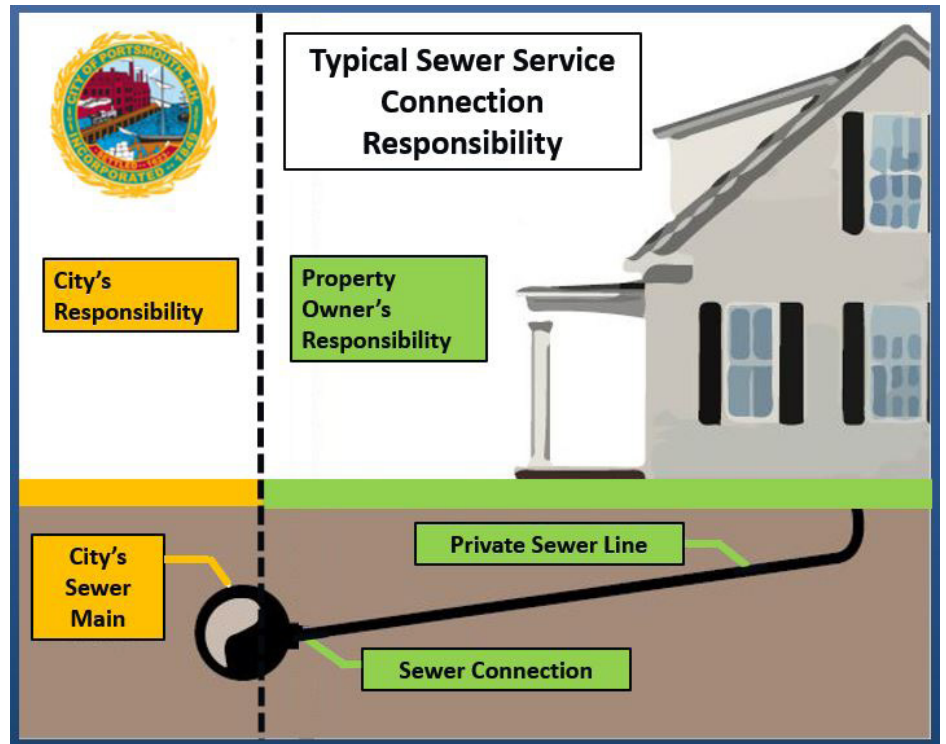


THE DPW SEWER DIVISION is dedicated to providing ongoing maintenance to the sewage collection and treatment systems. The City's sewer system provides service to over 90% of the City's developed land area and extends into portions of Greenland and Rye. The system is impacted by everything that is put down a private drain.

**What is a sewer lateral?** A sewer lateral is a pipe that transports wastewater from all the drains in a structure (i.e. single family home, building, etc.) to the City's sewer main. Sewer laterals are privately-owned and maintained by the property owner. Every property has 1 side sewer pipe that connects to the sewer main.

**What is the City's responsibility?** The City of Portsmouth's responsibility for the sewer system is to maintain wastewater flow in the collection system pipes. The main sewer line, which is often located in the street, is part of the City's collection system. DPW routinely cleans sewer lines and performs preventive maintenance and repairs and upgrades as needed.

**What is the property owner's responsibility?** The private property owner's responsibility is to maintain the entire length of the lateral pipe, which includes that portion that may be located within the public right of way (under the asphalt and street landscaping). Maintaining the lateral includes keeping the lateral line flowing freely and repairing cracks and breaks.



**What if the property is served by a septic system?** Proper maintenance and routine inspections are critical to a safe septic system. Contact the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Subsurface System Bureau for more information. <https://www.des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/ssb/index.htm>

Keep it  
Flowing...

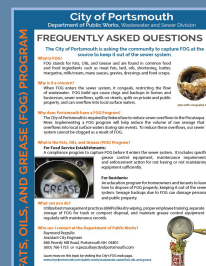
- Maintain through proper cleaning, repair & replacement
- Install a backflow preventer
- Keep out FOG and TRASH

## PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS

Check out our FOG Web page at:

[www.cityofportsmouth.com/public-works/wastewater-sewer/fats-oils-and-grease](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com/public-works/wastewater-sewer/fats-oils-and-grease)

Restaurants



Septic Systems

