



Serving Western Goleta and Isla Vista Since 1954

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### **Seasonal FOG May Disrupt Holiday Plans**

Goleta, CA – As Thanksgiving approaches, don't let the "fog" put a damper on your special plans.

No, this is not about the weather. There's a different type of FOG that goes along with the holiday season that can cause huge problems for homeowners, restaurants and your sewer system: **Fats, Oils, and Greases**.

Our holiday meals generate an enormous amount of FOG that, if poured down the kitchen sink, can clog household, commercial and even public sewer system pipes. A grease-blocked sewer line can cause sewage overflows into homes, businesses or neighborhoods, resulting in expensive, unpleasant clean ups and harm to the environment.

"We spend a lot of time educating the public on this issue," stated Craig Geyer, Board President for the Goleta West Sanitary District. "As a matter of fact, we recently updated our sewer system management plan and there's an entire section on FOG and what we have to do to combat this problem."

Homeowners and businesses can do a lot to alleviate the problem by following these simple suggestions:

1. Never pour cooking oils and fats down the drain.
2. Never put fatty food scraps through the garbage disposal.
3. Small amounts of FOG can be soaked up with a paper towel and put into the trash.
4. Modest amounts of FOG can be poured into a disposable container, allowed to solidify, and put into your trash.
5. All food scraps should be put into your trash or composted.
6. Large amounts of FOG should be disposed of by a professional such as MarBorg Industries, or at a hazardous waste disposal site (more information can be found at <http://www.lessismore.org>).

"Fortunately there's a simple remedy available to us: prevention," said Mark Nation, General Manager/Superintendent of the Goleta West Sanitary District. "Our customers can help, not only during the holidays but year round, to keep our system FOG free."

"There's a big incentive out there to accomplish this because individuals will save money on costly maintenance to their own private sewer while helping to protect the environment," Nation added.

For decades Goleta West Sanitary District has provided award-winning wastewater services for their customers – the citizens and businesses of Western Goleta Valley and Isla Vista. Their mission is to enhance the public's safety and protect the environment through innovative management of the sewer system and proactive approaches to keeping oceans and beaches healthy and clean.

Formed in 1954, the Goleta West Sanitary District provides wastewater collection for residents and businesses in the Western Goleta Valley and Isla Vista. Governed by an elected Board of Directors, the District serves approximately 6,000 connections to over 32,000 people. Our customer's wastewater is pumped through the system to the regional treatment plant that is owned by Goleta Sanitary District.

The District recently launched a new website which provides information on all District activities. For more information visit our website [www.GoletaWest.com](http://www.GoletaWest.com) or call the District office at 805-968-2617.

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