



## *Grease Campaign*

**E**very year, Pima County Wastewater Management launches a campaign during the holiday season to remind residents to properly handle and dispose of cooking grease. When grease is flushed down drains it can accumulate in our sewer lines, eventually blocking the lines and causing the back up of sewage into streets, homes or the environment.

The Wastewater Management Department asks residents to allow grease to cool before disposing of it in household trash. We also ask that you wipe your pots and pans with a paper towel prior to washing them. The excess grease that is removed in this manner does not make its way into the sanitary sewer system.



**SAVE OUR SEWERS!**

**Tame the Grease Monster!  
Always pour cooled grease into  
an empty can, not your sink!**



Every year, there is an increase in grease-related sanitary sewer overflows during the months of December, January and February. This increase is attributed to the extra cooking (especially of foods with high-fat content) that often takes place during the holiday season.

Please do your part this holiday season and throughout the coming year by taking care not to flush grease down drains. Instead, allow grease and oils to cool before pouring them into a tin can. It is safe to dispose of that can in your household trash. Your efforts will help to keep our sewers flowing and our environment clean.

## ***Food Service Establishments Must Meet Strict Grease Discharge Standards***

Although the Wastewater Management Department periodically reminds its residential customers to properly dispose of grease, commercial food service establishments are required to meet stringent grease discharge standards year round. In addition to creating blockages in the sanitary sewer system, grease build up can also create sewer odors. If a food service establishment is found to be in violation of its Wastewater Management Department permit, the department can take punitive actions, including the imposition of fines.



## ***Odor Control***

Pima County Wastewater Management is working to mitigate odors at our treatment facilities and in the sanitary sewer system. There are some odors in the sewer system and at the treatment plants that are chronic in nature. If you live in an area where such odors are an issue, you are familiar with this problem.

Chronic odors at a treatment plant and in the sewer system can be caused by a number of different conditions. Wastewater Management is currently analyzing the best methods for odor reduction in these instances. Sometimes residents smell sewer odors they have not smelled before. In these instances, sewer odors can be indicative of a blockage in the sewer. Such blockages can eventually lead to sanitary sewer overflows. If you smell sewer odors in an area that normally does not have odors, it is important that you report the odor to our Operations Division at 326-4333. If these odors occur after normal business hours, please call 295-4595.

If you are bothered by odors that are more chronic in nature (either from a treatment plant or sewer line) you can learn more about what the department is doing to correct the situation by calling 740-6532. Finally, if you would like to comment about the department's odor control plans, please call our comment line at 622-2020. Information about our plans for odor control appeared in November's bill insert. You can find November's bill insert on our web site: <http://wmm.pima.gov/wmm/>.

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### **QUESTIONS/CONCERNS**

**Please call 740-6500 during regular business hours.  
If you have a sewer emergency outside of normal work hours,  
please call 295-4595.**

#### **Important Phone Numbers**

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|--|----------|
| Roach Control Hotline .....                          | 319-4601 |
| Billing Section.....                                 | 740-6609 |
| Emergencies.....                                     | 740-6500 |
| After Hour Emergencies .....                         | 295-4595 |
| To Report Chronic Odors.....                         | 740-6532 |
| To Report New Odors .....                            | 326-4333 |
| To Comment About Odors .....                         | 622-2020 |
| To Comment About the Regional Optimization Plan..... | 622-2020 |
| To Report Vandalism .....                            | 911      |

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C.H. Huckelberry

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