

Spring Lake Township

Sewer Back-Up Information

What a Homeowner Needs To Know

Upon discovery of an overflow or sewer backup, immediately contact the Water and Sewer Department at 616-842-0080 weekdays between the hours of 8am-5pm. After business hours, during weekends, and on holidays, this same number will be answered by automated equipment and your call will be forwarded to on-call personnel. Please follow the prompts, speak clearly and leave a call-back number.

Preventing Sewer Back-ups: Keeping Drains Clear...

Sewage backups and overflows are often the result of grease buildup, which can lead to costly clean-ups and repairs, as well as health concerns. Household kitchen drains are a big source of residential fats, oil and grease, better known as FOG (e.g. cooking oils, butter, and meat fats). When grease and oils are repeatedly washed down the sink it can accumulate in both your plumbing system, as well as the Township's sewer system at large. The proper methods for oil and grease disposal in your home can be as easy – see the quick tips below:

- Use an old coffee can or jar as your grease container
- Pour greasy or oily food waste into the container, NOT down the drain or garbage disposal
- Allow animal fats to cool or solidify in the container before scraping the pan or throwing the grease container in the trash

Disposing of cooking oils and grease properly in your home can help to prevent clogged pipes and grease-related backups in the future. Remember that grease blockages can cause wastewater to overflow inside your own home and damage private property, so do your part and keep grease out of the drains!

Other major causes of clogging at pumping stations are disposable diapers, personal hygiene items and paper products such as baby wipes and paper cleaning cloths. The only paper product that belongs in the sewer system is toilet tissue.