



Protect Your Pipes, Never Pour F.O.G. Down The Drain

Everyone plays a role in wastewater treatment. Public support and participation are critical to keeping wastewater treatment facilities functioning and maintenance costs down. When fats, oils and grease (FOG) are dumped down household drains, they cool and stick together causing costly plumbing problems. The cleanup of sewer backups and the extra maintenance needed to reverse the damage caused by the improper disposal of FOG contributes to higher utility bills, costly home plumber visits and expensive pipe replacement.

How To Properly Dispose of F.O.G.

Method 1: Mix cooled oil with sand or flour until the consistency is thick enough to easily throw away in the trash.

Method 2: After you allow your fat, oil, and grease to cool pour F.O.G. into a can or milk carton, seal properly, and toss it in the trash.

Method 3: Prior to washing, scrape and dry wipe pots, pans, and dishes with paper towels and dispose of food waste in the trash.

Do your part to keep F.O.G. out of our waterways, and **never pour F.O.G. down the drain, garbage disposal, toilet, or outside.**



Tips To Save Water & \$ave Money This Fall

- Sweep debris to clear impermeable surfaces such as patios, driveways and sidewalks instead of using a hose. Dispose of debris in the trash.
- Remember plants, lawns and gardens require less water in the fall due to fewer daylight hours. As the days get shorter, so should your watering times.
- Make sure irrigation systems are working. Fix all leaks and broken irrigation heads.
- If you are able update your old appliances with WaterSense products. If your shower can fill a one-gallon bucket in less than 20 seconds it's time to replace your showerhead. Upgrade older model toilets with low flow toilets to save as much as five gallons per flush.
- If you choose not to update your appliances there are other affordable water saving tools available to help outdated equipment work more efficiently. Look for tools such as aerators, flow regulators, and displacement devices.
- Thaw frozen foods in your refrigerator instead of under running water.
- Check you monthly bills to track water usage.

For information on water conservation assistance contact Project HOMES at 804-410-1501.

Metrocare Needs Your Help

MetroCare Heat assists those having financial difficulties paying their heating bills. Customers wanting to assist a family in need can make contributions to MetroCare through their utility bill. Direct contributions can also be made by sending a check to: **DPU/MetroCare Heat, 730 E Broad Street, 5th Floor, Richmond, VA 23219**. All donations are used to aid in the payment of primary home heating bills. No contributions are used for administrative expenses. Eligible families needing assistance can apply by calling Capital Area Partnership Uplifting People (CAPUP) at 804-788-0050. Eligibility guidelines include household income below the federal poverty level, unemployment or a family crisis.

Ways To Prepare Your Home For The Dropping Temperatures

1. Check Your Equipment

The fall season is the perfect time to prepare your heating system for the weather change. Buildup in your furnace or heat pump causes inefficiency, unnecessary cost, and can even present a safety issue. Consider scheduling a tune up with a local technician to ensure your family stays warm and safe this season.

2. Insulate Before It's Too Late

A poorly insulated home allows heat to travel to unnecessary locations, while working harder to warm in the places you do need it, such as the living spaces and bedrooms. Upgrading or adding to your insulation now is one of the most effective ways to save on heating costs.

3. Check For Drafts and Cracks

Test each window and exterior door in your home. Look for cracks. For doors, you'll see them on the edges where the light breaks through. Simply apply new weather stripping. Window cracks or seal breaks will require either caulking or weather stripping. If your windows have bigger issues, such as rot, condensation inside glass panes, or a continuous leak, it may be time to replace them.



4. Seal Up Chimneys

Lots of heat is lost through the chimney. Prevent chimney drafts by keeping it closed off when not in use. Just remember to open it back up before you light a fire.

5. Replace Air Filters

Dirty air filters will cause your heating system to work harder and longer to heat your home. For most homes filters should be changed every 3 months. Homes with pets should change their filters as often as every 2 months.



Don't "Leave" It Be: Dispose of Your Leaves

Fall leaves may be beautiful, but when they are swept onto roads (either by residents or rainfall) they end up in catch basins, block storm drains and contribute to flooding. Natural dams are created, catching more leaves and litter and not allowing the flow of water. When the leaves finally decompose, the nutrients they release leads to excessive algae growth in our waterways, which harms aquatic life.

Do your part to limit the leaves that get picked up with the rain by mulching or composting them or bagging them in the proper containers for curbside pickup. Vacuum service is also available for a fee. Look for the City of Richmond leaf collection pickup schedule in October.

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