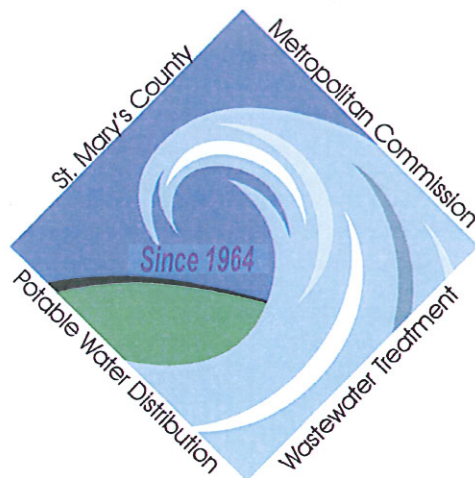


About MetCom

The St. Mary's County Metropolitan Commission (MetCom) is responsible for the maintenance and operation of most of the public water and sewer systems in St. Mary's County.

These systems include over 200 miles of sanitary sewer lines, 5 wastewater treatment facilities, and 60 wastewater pumping stations.



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St. Mary's County
Metropolitan
Commission

Proper Disposal of Household Liquid Waste

What you should
know about
maintaining your
sewer system

24 Hr Service Line:
(301) 373-5305

FATS, OILS, AND GREASE

Sanitary sewer back-ups are problems that can damage personal property and infrastructure and can affect public health. These back-ups can occur when sewer lines are clogged with a build-up of fats, oils and greases (FOG). In order to work effectively, the sewer systems need to be in proper working order from your drain to the treatment facilities. Typical liquid waste can be disposed of without difficulty. However, fats, oils, and greases builds up inside sewer pipes, causing blockages in the sewer system. **For this reason, fats, oils, and greases should not be disposed of down the drain.**

Proper disposal of fats, oils, and greases involves allowing the substances to cool, then scraping the food waste and grease into a suitable container. The container should be properly disposed of through the household trash.

Do not dispose of used cooking oil, lard, butter/margarine, shortening or meat fats by pouring them down your drain. This will lead to a clogged sewer and possible back-up.

HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

Hazardous substances, such as chemicals, petroleum products and solvents must be disposed of properly. Some chemicals, solvents and gasoline, if improperly disposed of, can lead to explosive or toxic situations, which could cause injury, property damages, and/or disruption of sewer collection service

In addition, it is a **CRIMINAL OFFENSE** to introduce into the sewer any of the following:

- Explosives
- Gasoline or Other Flammable Liquids
- Lubricating Oils or Greases
- Strong Chemicals

OTHER ITEMS THAT ARE PROHIBITED FROM DISPOSAL IN THE SANITARY SEWER SYSTEM

We advise that the following items should never be introduced into the sanitary sewer system, either directly or through a kitchen food waste disposal unit:

- Glass, Metal, and Wood
- Plastic Objects
- Cloth Products, Such as Diapers, Rags, Disposable Wipes and Reinforced or Heavy Duty Paper Towels
- Feminine or Personal Hygiene Products
- Cigarette Butts
- Seafood Shells
- Cooking Oils and Greases

FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE REGULATIONS COULD RESULT IN CIVIL PENALTIES OR CRIMINAL PROSECUTION