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City of Chowchilla

Press Release



For Release: Immediate

Tips Help Prevent Costly Sewer Back-ups this Holiday Season

Chowchilla, CA, December 9, 2010: Food scraps, fats and oils washed down the kitchen sink can result in clogged sewer lines and expensive plumbing bills, so the City of Chowchilla is issuing tips to help residents avoid costly problems this holiday season. The City is encouraging residents to keep their pipes clean by remembering the following tips for properly disposing of food waste and cooking products:

- Pour fat drippings and kitchen greases into sealable containers and dispose of them in your black garbage container.
- Avoid putting leftover food down the garbage disposal whenever possible
- Any waste that can be thrown in the garbage should always be put in the garbage
- Remember, "Scrape It; Don't Grind It."

Even the smallest amount of fat, oil, or grease will solidify and stick to sewer pipes according to staff in the City's Public Services Department. The residue then catches food and other solids that are washed down sinks and other drains in the home. Over time, the debris builds up and eventually causes a complete blockage of the sewer pipe. "We encourage residents to help keep our system operating smoothly by scraping any remaining food from plates and platters into the trash instead of washing it down the drain."

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