

# Infrastructure, Health & Environment

## Fats, Oil & Grease (FOG)

Most of the City's sewer infrastructure is televised and cleaned every two-years. However, some stretches of the City's sewer system require a much more frequent maintenance schedule because of fats, oil and grease (FOG), which is washed into the system, primarily by food preparation establishments that do not have adequate grease control devices or maintenance measures in place.

The Long Beach Water Department requires a growing number of sewer mains be inspected and cleaned every 90 days, due to heavy FOG build-up. Sixty-two different locations, totaling over 70,500 feet of sewer main, require labor intensive inspection and cleaning every three-months, rather than the normal two-year schedule.

That's an additional seven times every two years for these locations, at an additional cost of approximately \$400,000, paid by Long Beach sewer customers. Because of these 90-day repeats, the Water Department loses 180 days per year on preventative maintenance of other critical infrastructure. In fact, if not for

the 90-day repeats, the Water Department could have cleaned an additional 500,000 feet of main line last year.

FOG not only destructively attaches to the inner lining of private plumbing systems, but also to the public sewer system in city streets. With time, FOG will constrict flow causing damaging and often expensive sewage backups and overflows. An uncontrolled sewage overflow could eventually find its way from the street to the storm drain, which can ultimately lead to our beaches. FOG also makes the sewage treatment process more expensive, often clogging the filtration units used to clean the water.

This is a health and environmental stewardship issue. This is an efficiency and cost issue. This is a good-government issue. Please help Long Beach Water control FOG. To find out how, go to [www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org) or call 562.570.2311.



The above photo is an actual photo from the sewer system and shows how grease begins to form inside



Eventually, as seen above, the grease will begin to close the pipeline all together

**[www.lbwater.org](http://www.lbwater.org)**