

How to Prevent Fats, Oils, and Greases from Damaging Your Home/Business

Fats, Oils, and Greases aren't just bad for your arteries and your waistline; they're bad for sewers, too. Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.

Where does the grease come from?

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:

- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter and margarine
- Food scraps
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the streets). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain. Commercial additives, including detergents, which claim to dissolve grease, may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing in your home or your neighbor's home;
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the homeowner;
- Raw sewage overflowing into parks, yards, and streets;
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms; and
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for local sewer departments, which causes higher sewer bills for customers.

What we can do to help?

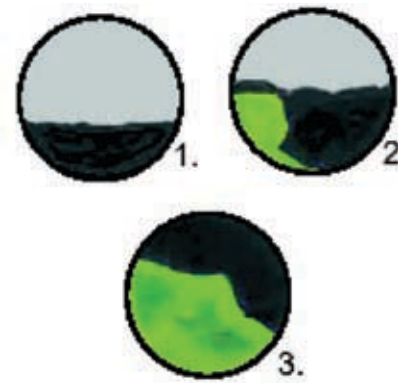
The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows of raw sewage is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

There are several ways to do this.

1. Never pour grease down sink drains or into toilets.
2. Scrape grease and food scraps from trays, plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal (or recycling where available).

3. Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets/strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the drain baskets/strainers into the trash for disposal.
4. Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out. Call your local sewer system authority if you have any questions.

An Inside View of Pipe Blockage



1. An unobstructed pipe allows water to flow free.
2. A pipe partially obstructed with grease build up hampers the flow of water.
3. A large build up of grease in pipes can cause a blockage often resulting in a sewer backup inside a residence or a manhole overflow.

What restaurant and building owners need to know about grease traps or interceptors

Restaurants, large buildings (such as apartment complexes), and other commercial establishments may have grease traps or interceptors that keep grease out of the sewer system. For a grease trap or interceptor to work correctly, it must be properly

- Designed (sized and manufactured to handle the amount that is expected),
- Installed (level, vented, etc.), and
- Maintained (cleaned and serviced on a frequent basis).

Solids should never be put into grease traps or interceptors. Routine, often daily, maintenance of grease traps and interceptors is needed to ensure that they properly reduce or prevent blockages.

Be cautious of chemicals and additives (including soaps and detergents) that claim to dissolve grease. Some of these additives simply pass grease down pipes where it can clog the sewer lines in another area.



Provide your home and family a sense of added security with Outdoor Lighting from UBT.

For more information call 334-720-0700



UBT Tip-Line Proves to be Effective

Approximately three months ago, UBT created the UBT Tip-Line. According to Mark Ennis, General Manager, "I didn't expect to see immediate results, but I have to say that I am extremely surprised by feedback received from Macon County citizens regarding unauthorized activity. With input from concerned citizens, it allows UBT to investigate each incident and proceed with corrective action."

The Utility Theft and Tip Hotline was established to address growing problems in the service area, as well as potential safety hazards. UBT takes a strong stand on unauthorized activity to include tampering with a utility meter or tampering with utility services.

You, the customer, can help. If you suspect any suspicious or inappropriate activity, we ask that you call 334-720-0778 and report it to our Tip-Line. Again, all tips are anonymous and confidential.

Verify Identity before Allowing Strangers in Your Home

UBT cares about your safety. That is one of the reasons why all UBT and contractors (like Tru-Check) carry identification badges with them at all times. If someone asks to enter your home or property, ask to see his or her ID badge, even if you initiated the visit. Also remember that UBT employees do not ask to enter a customer's home unless the customer initiated the visit.

Never go outside your home or leave it unattended without verifying the person you are going with is a UBT employee or UBT contractor.

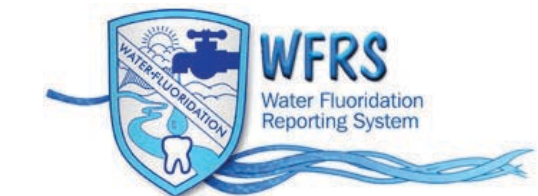
Because UBT contracts with other companies, you may also see non-UBT employees with legitimate UBT badges. However, professional-looking badges may be forged, so feel free to call UBT at (334)720-0700 to verify that someone has been sent to your address. If you are still unsure, do not hesitate to call 911.

Verify Stangers

Customer Appreciation Day Coming October 27th!

CUSTOMER SERVICE REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS: 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday | (334) 720-0700
DEPOSITS: MUNICIPAL COMPLEX | AFTER HOUR EMERGENCIES: (334) 720-0700

UBT Receives Quality Award



UBT was presented with the 2006 Water Fluoridation Quality Award by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, United States Department of Health and Human Services. The CDC commended UBT's water system for its consistent and professional adjustment of the water fluoride content for the optimum level for oral health for 12 consecutive months.

Consistent, high-quality water fluoridation practice, as demonstrated by its water system, is a safe and effective method to prevent tooth decay, improving the oral health of UBT's residents of all ages. For more information, visit www.cdc.gov/fluoridation/.



Progress Takes Collaboration

UBT has undertaken a large effort in repairing the water lines on Hwy 29 across from George Washington Carver Elementary School. In order to accomplish this task, multiple departments and external consultants are often involved in what seems like a simple undertaking. On Friday, July 20, 2007, "teamwork" was the word of the day.



Boom Truck hauls tree limbs



Melvin Kimball (Water/Wastewater) in Bulldozer

In order for the water line to be installed, trees needed to be cut down by UBT's Light and Power Department and removed with heavy equipment. Before any pipe could be placed, the natural gas lines needed to be located, so that not accidents would occur. When Al Howard, Manager of Water/Wastewater and Alvin Woods, Manager of Light and Power were asked how often something this complicated takes place, they both replied at once, "This is routine business. We are accustomed to working together to get the job done." Team work is what sets UBT apart.



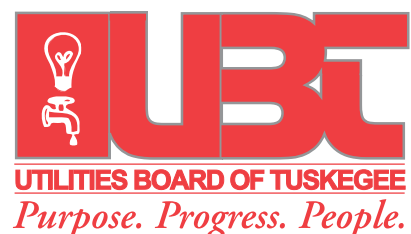
Allen Williams (Light and Power) in bucket



Ellis Still (Water/Wastewater) w/Line Locator

H2O Tips for Your Yard

- ❖ Install a rain shut-off device on your automatic sprinklers to eliminate unnecessary watering.
- ❖ Water your summer lawns once every three days in order to grow deep root systems.
- ❖ Choose a water-efficient drip irrigation system for trees, shrubs and flowers.
- ❖ Reduce the amount of grass in your yard by planting shrubs, and using rock and granite mulching.
- ❖ Remember to check your sprinkler system valves periodically for leaks and keep the heads in good shape.
- ❖ Don't water your lawn on windy days. After all, sidewalks and driveways don't need water.
- ❖ When watering grass on steep slopes, use a soaker hose to prevent wasteful runoff.
- ❖ Water your plants deeply but less frequently to create healthier and stronger landscapes.
- ❖ Lastly, grab a wrench and fix that leaky faucet. It's simple, inexpensive, and can save 140 gallons a week.



Board Member Spotlight

Mae Doris Williams – Board Vice-Chair



Mae Doris Williams

Five individuals make up UBT's Board of Directors. Serving as its Vice-Chair or second in command is Mae Doris Williams. This position is critical in the event that the Chair is unavailable to serve. This position is charged with providing the Chair guidance and assistance in leadership of the Board as a whole.

Ms. Williams has served on the Board for three terms. "I have been with the Board through some pretty rocky times," said Ms. Williams. "One important event took place before receivership began. The Board, with the assistance of then Senator George Clay changed the representation on the Board to include two positions that were elected by the public. This

was our greatest feat, with the goal having UBT represented across Macon County."

"When UBT fell into Receivership, we as a Board felt that things were going to be business as usual", said Williams, "but courts imposed some very strict parameters that forced the Board to step up. With the vision of Mark Ennis, the Board has undergone some very critical training and education in regard to conduct, expectations and roles. I feel that we are more prepared to handle situations that come our way. We have learned from the past that there are no quick fixes. It takes hard work and dedication to ensure that we are representing the best interest of UBT as a company."

In regard to the future of the Board, Ms Williams said, "I am confident in being a part of the decision making process. We have been given the information to study, gel and decide on the correct path. Being provided useful information helps me, as a member of the Board, arrive at a decision that is in the best interest of Macon County."

Ms. Williams moved to Macon County after receiving her undergraduate and Master's degree from Alabama State University. She holds degrees in both Elementary Education Administration and a Specialist degree in Educational Administration. In her 30+ years in Macon County, Ms. Williams married and had three sons, Rodney, Raynard, and Robin. Rodney and his family live in Macon County. Robin and his wife both serve in the military. They have three children. Raynard is an Engineer. His wife and two sons live in Detroit.

Ms. Williams is the Principal of Lewis Adams Elementary School. She says that the most fulfilling aspect of her job is "watching the children grow and develop".

Ms. Williams remains an active member of the Alpha Kappa Alpha (AKA) Sorority, Inc. and currently serves on the City Council.

UBT recognizes and praises Ms. Williams for her active participation on the Board, her school and her community.

Theft of electric service and tampering with utility meters is a crime.

To report theft of service or any suspicious behavior call our Utility Theft Hotline at 334-720-0778.

Sewer Investigator: Camera's Eye View

Have you ever wondered what lurks in your pipes? All too often when we wash clothes, do dishes or flush the toilet we forget that it all ends up in the same place...down the drain. When a spokesperson for the Water/Wastewater Department says, "We'll look into that for you." They really mean it.

UBT has a special mobile unit (SI) that has a special camera attached that allows it to see what lies ahead of it. This device has the ability to climb, crawl and submerge. It is high technology, which allows the wastewater crew to understand and assess the problem that is ahead.



L-SI Unit next to cone

The mobile unit (SI) can work under hazardous conditions. It is small enough to maneuver through pipes as small as 6 inches to 18 inches in diameter. If a person were investigating the problem, they would have to wear confined space equipment and a breathing apparatus.



L-Clear Pipe R-Pipe with Roots

According to Water/Wastewater Department Manager Alvin Howard, "This unit allows us to get to the root of the problem. We have the capability to determine the actual source of the blockage or leak. The SI can get to places and depths that would take my crew weeks to reach. It also allows UBT to save a lot of money by not wasting manpower, hours and equipment to get to the source of the problem." This unit has already assisted the Water/Wastewater Department by tracking and solving problems more quickly and by determining the best way to solve blockages and leaks.

Contact Us

UBT Board Members
Willie "Bill" Anderson
Board Chairman

Mae Doris Williams
Board Vice-Chairman

Lutalo Aryee
Board Member

Harold Washington
Board Member

Georgette White-Moon
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General Manager

Theresa Bogan
Executive Assistant

James Samuel
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Alvin Woods
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S. Wastewater Plant

Mark Cooley
N. Wastewater Plant

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