

### Throw It Away, Don't Pour It Away

Have you ever been cleaning up after a weekend fish fry and thinking, “what should I do with all this oil?” Should I pour it down the drain? Garbage disposal? Or maybe even the storm drain? These are several common disposal mistakes that can lead to pollution. Grease and oil can clog drainpipes causing blockages, overflows, and backups if disposed of incorrectly. This can also affect the environment by destroying future and existing food supplies. It may also produce a foul odor, clog water treatment plants, and possibly catch fire when ignition sources are present.

A safe and effective way to dispose of leftover fryer oil or grease after cooking would be to first let the oil or grease solidify and cool. Once the grease has cooled, then transfer it to a metal container that can be disposed. Place the container into a plastic bag to prevent leakage and then dispose of it into the garbage. You can help prevent pollution in lakes, rivers, and oceans by taking these specific actions.

#### How to Dispose of Cooking Oil and Grease



#### Grease Tips

- Use a grease trap
- Try absorbent material for spills
- Move oil with proper equipment
- Clean traps and equipment regularly

#### DON'T pour in...



#### Ways to Clean Spilt Grease and Oil

1. Remove excess oil – wipe up oil with a rag or use kitty litter to absorb it.
2. Scrub with paste – use baking soda or a powdered laundry detergent to dissolve the oil stain and rinse with water.
3. Wash with soap – dish soap and a scrub brush are often effective on new oil spills.
4. Rub and brush – grease can be removed by rubbing baby powder directly on grease and then brushing the powder off after absorbed.

#### Fats, Oils, and Grease that are found in your kitchen:

- *Cooking Oils*
- *Butter*
- *Shortening*
- *Salad dressing*
- *Bacon and sausage grease*
- *Peanut butter*
- *Mayonnaise*

#### Report an Illicit Discharge

An illicit discharge is anything other than rain that could flow or be washed into a storm drain. If you see something that doesn't look right, please call Rebekah Homan in the Public Works Department at (660) 827-3000 ext. 1160.

**Oil Pollution**

When wildlife is exposed to waste products such as oil, this may cause sickness and death. Oil destroys the insulating ability of fur-bearing mammals and the water repellency of a bird's feathers. Without the ability to repel water and insulate from the cold water, mammals and birds will die from hypothermia. Therefore it is important to reduce sources of pollution.

**Wildlife That Can Be Affected**

- Ducks
- Fish
- Turtles
- Otters
- Beavers
- Birds

**Fluids Leaking From Vehicles**

Did you know fluids leaking from vehicles can harm wildlife? When vehicle fluids leak onto roads and driveways they can be washed into storm drains, and ultimately flow into a lake or stream. Oil, antifreeze, and brake fluids contain heavy metals that are toxic to wildlife. It is important to inspect vehicles regularly and repair leaky hoses and tanks. Oil does not dissolve in water and it sticks to everything including bird's feathers and the sand on beaches. Using commercial car washes to clean off any excess fluids can also help prevent pollution.



**Benefits of Using a Commercial Car Wash**

- Helps protect lakes and streams
- Reduce pollution
- Protect habitat for wildlife
- Use 60% less water than a homeowner uses to rinse the car
- Saves you time
- Water can be recycled

**Car Facts**

- *One quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water*
- *One gallon of gasoline can pollute 750,000 gallons of water*
- *One quart of antifreeze can pollute 200,000 gallons of water*

**Did you know?**

The City of Sedalia has a site available for residents to take their yard debris for disposal.

City of Sedalia Materials Management Site  
27882 Highway U (S. Ingram Ave.)

Hours: 7:00 am to 5:30 pm 7 days per week excluding City Holidays

For more details, please contact Public Works at (660) 827-3000 ext. 1166 or (660) 827-7820.