

URGENT

October 2009

To All Shamokin Dam Borough Residents and Businesses

The Borough is requesting your help. We must begin disposing of food, oils, grease and pharmaceutical wastes in a proper manner. Certain items must no longer be:

"PUT DOWN THE DRAIN"

The Eastern Snyder County Regional Authority has recently announced plans to significantly increase the cost of sewer treatment due to elevated levels of organic waste (primarily food waste), which includes grease and food refuse from residential and commercial kitchens entering the sewage collection system. Oil, grease, food scraps and pharmaceuticals must NOT be put down the sink, drain or toilet. If we as a community continue this practice, additional charges of up to **\$250 per household per year** could be assessed to the current sewer rates. In addition, future connections may be jeopardized by this type overloading.

The following housekeeping practices, along with the poster on the back of this sheet will go a long way in helping to solve the problem:

Garbage Disposals

STOP disposing of food waste through garbage disposals

Residential and Commercial garbage grinding units significantly contribute to the level of organic waste entering the sewer system. You should dispose of food waste in your trash can or a compost container and use it for gardening. You may learn more about food composting at the following web site.

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conservation/rrr/composting/index.htm>

Pharmaceuticals

DO NOT dispose of all your unwanted pharmaceuticals "down the drain"

A recent study indicates that unwanted pharmaceuticals are showing up in rivers and streams throughout the USA that are influenced by wastewater treatment plant effluent releases. Meaning that, they are not 'breaking down' through the treatment process. This has affected fish and wildlife as well as allowing these contaminants to be brought back into public water supplies such as ours, which can affect humans.

Note: To date none have been detected in our water system. Please dispose of these items as recommended by your Pharmacist or include them with your regular trash removal.

On The Back

The rear of this sheet deals mainly with the handling of kitchen grease. All residential and commercial property owners must put these standard practices to use from this point on. This problem must be corrected as soon as possible and will require an effort from all residents and businesses in the Borough.

If you have any questions, please contact the Borough Office.

Let's Tackle the Grease in This Kitchen!

Why should I help?

- Prevent grease buildups from blocking sewer lines.
- Stop sewer overflows into streets and storm drains.
- Save money spent on costly cleanups of sewage spills.
- Reduce the number of times you have to clean your grease trap (food service).
- Protect the quality of our water.

DO!



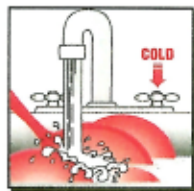
- ✓ Put oil and grease in covered collection containers.



- ✓ Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags and dispose of properly. Avoid using your garbage disposal.



- ✓ Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles. Cool first before you skim, scrape, or wipe off excess grease.



- ✓ Prewash dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.



- ✓ Cover kitchen sink with catch basket and empty into garbage can as needed.



- ✓ Cover floor drain with fine screen and empty into garbage can as needed.

DON'T!

- ✗ Don't pour oil and grease down the drain.

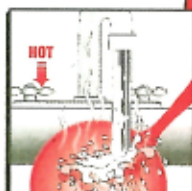


- ✗ Don't put food scraps down the drain.



- ✗ Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.

- ✗ Don't rinse off oil and grease with hot water.



More Ways to Tackle Grease

- ▶ Use environmentally safe cleaning products instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer lines.
- ▶ If you generate large amounts of used cooking oil, reuse or recycle it. To find a recycler, check the phone book under "recyclers" or "rendering companies."
- ▶ If you generate small amounts of used cooking oil, reuse it as often as possible and then pour it into a container you can throw away. Never pour it down the drain.
- ▶ Start a compost pile at your home with scraps that are not meat. Find out about composting in the TCEQ publication, *A Green Guide to Yard Care* (GI-028).

Let's Protect Shamokin Dam