

# City Beat

[www.modestogov.com](http://www.modestogov.com)

(209) 577-5200

TDD (209) 526-9211

## F.O.G. – FATS, OILS, AND GREASE

### *They're bad for your home's plumbing and the City's Wastewater Collection System*

**Did you know?** Over the past year there have been over 100 reported blockages within the City's Wastewater (sewage) Collection System due to grease. Grease in a liquid form may not appear harmful, but as the liquid cools, it thickens and can form a residue on the interior of pipes. This hardened grease can block a sewage line completely. A small amount of grease in your household drains and pipes can cause blockages in the plumbing and could potentially cause a sewage overflow in your home or yard.

**What is at stake?** Grease-related problems can cause sewage backups and overflows that are messy, costly, and a potential threat to you and your family's health, and the environment. The City of Modesto wants to help citizens stop the problems associated with grease before they occur.

**What can you do?** Here are some ways you can help protect the environment, your plumbing, and Modesto's Wastewater Collection System:

- Never pour grease down sink drains or toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from all dishes into a can or the trash for disposal.
- Use strainers in sinks to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty the strainers into the trash for disposal.
- Do not put grease or greasy food in your home garbage disposal. Garbage disposals simply shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.
- Wipe dishes prior to washing. Do not rely on commercial additives in detergents to dissolve grease.
- Place cooking grease in the black curb container with the normal weekly garbage pickup. Allow the grease to cool before placing the grease in your garbage bags and seal the plastic bags to prevent leakage.
- Help spread awareness by sharing these tips with family, friends, and neighbors.

For more information, call the Public Works Water Quality Control Division at (209) 577-6200.

## National Pollution Prevention Week (P2W) will be celebrated September 21 through the 27.

### *Pollution Prevention Begins With You...*

#### **Recycle Your Used Motor Oil**

There are two easy ways to recycle used motor oil: *Curbside Recycling and Certified Collection Centers.*

*Curbside Recycling* is as easy as 1-2-3:

1. Contact your garbage company (Bertolotti Disposal (209) 537-8000 or Gilton Solid Waste (209) 527-3781) to schedule your collection appointment.
2. Place the oil in a 1-gallon plastic container with a screw-top lid.
3. Place the oil out in front of your garage the evening before your collection appointment. Do not place the oil in the street for collection. Limit four (4) gallons per week. Do not mix the used oil with any other substances such as antifreeze.

*Certified Collection Centers* pay you for used motor oil. Place the used oil in 1-gallon plastic containers with screw top lids. Find the Certified Collection Center nearest to you at <http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling/oil.asp>. Centers will accept up to five (5) gallons of used motor oil and will pay 16 cents per gallon.

For more information on either of these programs, call the Recycle Used Oil Hotline at (209) 577-5493 or visit <http://www.modestogov.com/prnd/recycling/oil.asp>.

#### **Household Hazardous Waste**

All residents of Stanislaus County can recycle the following products at the Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste Facility for FREE:

Antifreeze	Gasoline	Computers	Fertilizers and Pesticides
Batteries	Motor Oil & Oil Filters	Monitors	Solvents
Brake Fluid	Paints	Televisions	
Drain Cleaners	Pool & Spa Chemicals	Electronic Equipment	

The Household Hazardous Waste Facility is located at 1716 Morgan Road and is open Fridays and Saturdays (excluding major holidays) from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, call (209) 525-4123.

#### **Keep Our Storm Drains Clean & Water Flowing**

- When changing your car oil, prevent spills by placing cardboard or newspaper under the oil pan.
- Use absorbent material such as cat litter to clean up spills. Inspect your car regularly for leaks.
- Wash cars on unpaved surfaces or at a commercial car wash. Leftover soapy water should be poured down a household sink or bathtub.
- Drain your chlorinated pool or spa water using a house sewer drain (bathtub or sink).
- Rinse paint brushes in the sink when using water-based latex paint.
- Use non-toxic alternatives to pesticides and organic gardening when possible. Use herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Do not apply these products when it is raining or when rain is in the forecast.
- Sweep driveways, patios, and sidewalks rather than hosing them into the gutters and storm drains.

Remember, the city's storm drains flow directly into our waterways and oceans. For more information or to report illegal dumping in our storm drains, call (209) 577-6200.

For more pollution prevention ideas, visit the City of Modesto's pollution prevention display September 21 through September 24 at Tenth Street Place, 1010 Tenth Street, 2nd floor lobby.