



What's New at the County

From Cooking Oil to Biodiesel Fuel



Please Recycle Your Cooking Oil

Residential Cooking Oil Recycling Program

HAVE PEACE OF MIND, PROTECT YOUR HOME AND SAVE MONEY. TAKE YOUR COOKING OIL TO THE COUNTY FOR RECYCLING.



PASCO COUNTY COOKING OIL RECYCLING PROGRAM

Pasco County Utilities Services Branch

DON'T LET THIS HAPPEN TO YOU



SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW IN RESIDENTIAL AREA



GREASE CLOGS REMOVED FROM RESIDENTIAL SEWER LINE



FAT, OIL & GREASE

Clogging of residences sewer lines and the county's wastewater treatment infrastructures have been an economical and potential health burden on both county workers and homeowners alike. That is due to infrastructure restoration and the cleaning of sewer lines which require lots of money and manpower to bring them back to their original condition in order for them to function properly. A major culprit causing this malfunction is fat, oil and grease originating from

residential and commercial sources. Cooking oil and grease are by-products of cooking and are found in such items as meat fats, butter, oil, margarine, dairy products, poultry and fish.

IT'S A SLIPPERY SLOPE

Cooking oil and grease enter the sewer lines from two sources: Food Service Establishments such as restaurants and cafeterias and from households. In Pasco County Food Service Establishments are

regulated by a county ordinance and are inspected annually by county staff. The ordinance is also enforced by the county's Code Enforcement Department. This is to ensure that cooking oil and fats are removed from the wastewater stream prior to entering the county's sewer system and are managed properly. Conversely, the county does not regulate cooking oil and grease derived from households. Consequently, county staff strives to address this issue through public education and recycling. It is estimated that 40% of fat, oil and grease collected in the sewer lines nationwide is derived from households. Areas where large number of residents cluster, such as apartment complexes and condominiums particularly, place high pressure on the sewer infrastructure simply due to the high density of residents in limited areas.

County staff attempts to reach as many of the residents as possible to explain why and how we, as county residents and consumers, should manage our cooking oil and grease properly. Reaching every resident in the county is a formidable task complicated by the fact that some of our residents are here seasonally. This effort to reach all residents is not only for this program but also for all of our recycling and hazardous waste programs designed to serve the public.

PLEASE DON'T

When poured down the drain, cooking oil and grease do not disappear; they gel as they cool and build up in your homes and the county's sewer lines. This process starts by grease sticking to the top and sides of the pipe and growing inwards. Over time, this reduces the diameter of the pipe and constricts the sewage flow through the pipes, eventually leading to a complete clogging of the lines and hence, causing sanitary sewer overflows. When pipes and manholes overflow, raw sewage can reach homes, yards, offices, parking lots, rivers and streams, lakes, properties and can cause potential health problems. As many as ninety percent (90%) of the sanitary sewer overflows in certain locations have been attributed to blockages caused by fat, oil and grease. These could be avoided with little effort on all of our part.

In most counties and cities throughout our nation, past ways of managing cooking oil and grease from homes was to can it, add some absorbents or rags to the can and place the can in the trash with normal household garbage. Even in our county we utilized this process until now. Now we have an alternative—we can now

move forward and recycle our cooking oil. It is a resource so why waste it? Recycle it.

WHAT PASCO COUNTY STAFF IS DOING?

Cooking oil and grease is a resource that can and should be utilized. Cooking oil has been used in animal feed and in the manufacturing of cosmetics for decades. It can also be used as fuel. With that in mind, county staff has embarked on collecting and recycling household cooking oil. The Board of County Commissioners contracted with a recycling company to haul the cooking oil collected at two locations in the county and convert it into biodiesel, which can then be used in vehicles. This is the best way to manage our cooking oil. Should this program prove successful, additional collection locations may be added throughout the county.

SIX STEPS TO RECYCLE COOKING OIL

1. Obtain a one or two gallon plastic container.
2. Label the container "cooking oil for recycling."
3. Pour cooking oil in container. Place in a safe place.
4. Continue to add the oil until container is full.
5. When full, bring it to the county recycling center.
6. You may use as many containers as you wish.

WHERE SHOULD I BRING MY COOKING OIL?

Currently we have an east and west Pasco location for you to bring your cooking oil for recycling. Both locations are open to the public Monday through Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

West Pasco Recycling Center
Hays Road off S.R. 52 in Spring Hill
Monday – Saturday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

East Pasco Transfer Station
Handcart Road off County Road 579A in Dade City
Monday – Saturday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

For additional information call the
Utilities Department
(727) 847-8041 or
(352) 521-4274, Ext. 8718