

CREATE A GREASE CAN

Materials:

- Recycled tin cans
- Strips of construction paper
- Markers, crayons, stickers, etc.
- Tape or glue
- Photos of foods containing F.O.G.

Background:

The Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources has five water treatment facilities that clean about 70 million gallons of water from Lake Lanier every day and pump it to homes, businesses, parks, and other places through the county. Then, the Department of Water Resources collects the used water from sinks, bathrooms, and factories, sends it to wastewater treatment facilities where it is cleaned up again, and returned back to Lake Lanier, the Yellow River, or the Chattahoochee River, cleaner than when it started. By recycling used water back to Lake Lanier and rivers, the Department of Water Resources helps conserve this limited natural resource and protect our environment while providing good, clean water to residents.

How you can help:

Changing the way we wash dishes can help our community and ourselves. We commonly eat foods that contain fats, oils, or grease, also called FOG. Fats, oils and grease act like slime that hardens and clogs up pipes so water cannot get through. This keeps water from getting back to the water department to be cleaned and recycled. There are easy ways to prevent these substances from going down your drain.

1. Scrape leftover food into trash can before putting dishes in sink.
2. Use a paper towel to wipe grease and oil off of pans before washing.
3. Pour used grease into grease can. It will cool here, turn from liquid to solid, and be easier to throw in the trash.

Examples:

- Foods containing fats: avocado, cheese, dark chocolate, eggs, yogurt, ice cream
- Foods containing oils: butter, mayonnaise, salad dressing
- Foods containing grease: burgers, bacon, French fries, pizza



Activity:

1. Take a sheet of paper and cut it "hotdog style"
2. Decorate one side of the page. Consider some of those Fat, Oil, and Grease foods which can be great to draw on your paper



3. Tape or glue the sheet of paper around the can



4. Place can by kitchen sink or stove

