



# CITY OF BISHOP

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## **Public Works News Release**

### **Grease and Floss Cause Sewer Problems**

What is the most common cause of sewer backups? Fats, oils and grease. When you pour that hot liquid down the drain and expect it to be gone forever...think again. Fats, oils, and grease often stick to the insides of the cool sewer pipes when washed into kitchen plumbing systems. This can block pipes and create back ups and overflows on property, as well as on to the streets and sidewalks, causing environmental problems and other health hazards.

Bishop Public Works and Eastern Sierra Community Services District crews do what they can to remove the build ups in the sewer mains in the Bishop area before they can cause a problem, but often it is a losing battle. The best thing is to stop the grease at its source. That is where residents and businesses, especially restaurants, come in. Here are a few suggestions that can help eliminate sewer backups:

- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots, pans, utensils, and grills into the trash instead of down the drain.
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals.
- Use baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids and then dispose of them in the trash.

Another item in every household causes sewer problems: dental floss. One of the most common reasons that sewer pumps break is every day, ordinary, dental floss. If it gets down the drain, it wraps around the moving parts of sewer pumps and stops them from working.

For more information contact City of Bishop Public Works at 760-873-8458 or [publicworks@ca-bishop.us](mailto:publicworks@ca-bishop.us) or the Eastern Sierra Community Services District at 872-1415 or 301 West Line Street.