



Fats-Oils-Grease Sanitary Sewer Reduction

The mission of the Wastewater Treatment Plant is to intercept and clean wastewater of the City to prevent pollution of New York State waterways and preserve this natural resource. The plant is permitted by the New York State Department of Conservation to treat and return to the Chemung River up to 3 million gallons per day.

The sanitary collection system, consisting of over 46 miles of pipe and hundreds of access manholes, is maintained by the Department of Public Works (DPW). In order to reduce the concentration of fats, oils and grease (FOG) that are introduced into the collection system and ultimately treated at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, DPW has sought the cooperation of residents through the distribution educational materials, public service announcements, and meetings with restaurant owners.

Food wastes flushed through drains add to FOG congestion in underground sanitary sewer pipes. FOG can cause blockages that result in costly maintenance and backups. The introduction of FOG into the sanitary collection system requires frequent use of high pressure water jetting, and dosing with grease dissolving chemicals in order to dislodge it. By seeking the public's cooperation, DPW can avoid problems with these wastes and lengthen the life of the collection system.