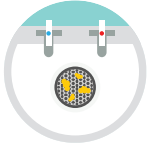


Prevent blocked pipes and drains

Fats, oils and grease (FOGs) can cause serious pipe blockages and sewer flooding if poured down the sink. Help prevent blocked pipes and drains by following the tips below.



Use sink strainers in plugholes to stop food particles going down the drain then empty the contents into the bin.



Scrape vegetable peelings, rice, pasta, food debris and grease from plates, pans and utensils into the bin.



Pour or scrape fat and sauces from roasting pans and plates into a heat resistant container such as a Gunk Pot, egg carton or yogurt pot. When cool, put it in the bin.



Before washing the dishes, use kitchen towel to wipe any grease left in pots and pans and put it in the bin.



Before putting your oily pots and pans into the dishwasher, wipe off any leftover grease with a kitchen towel and put it in the bin.



Always put coffee grounds in the food bin or on the compost heap as an added source of nitrogen.



Contact your local county council for information on how to dispose of oils and where your local recycling centre is.



Pouring hot water down the sink does not dissolve fat and grease. The water will cool as it flows through the pipe and the grease becomes solid again.



Even though washing up liquid helps grease run down your sink, it can solidify on the pipe walls downstream, building up and eventually causing blockages.

For more information on preventing blockages in your home and the sewer network, go to [water.ie/thinkbeforeyoupour](https://www.water.ie/thinkbeforeyoupour) or follow [@IrishWater](https://twitter.com/IrishWater) on Twitter and Facebook. [#thinkbeforeyoupour](https://www.facebook.com/IrishWater)

The Think Before You Pour campaign is operated by An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme in partnership with Irish Water.