American Water Newsroom

California American Water Provides Tips for Disposal of Fats, Oils and Cooking Grease to Protect Residential Plumbing and Wastewater Systems

Give thanks, not clogs this holiday season

[SAN DIEGO] – NOVEMBER 25, 2024 – California American Water wants to help customers and the general public protect their residential plumping and wastewater systems by providing important tips for disposal of Fats, Oils and Cooking Grease (FOGs).

When FOGs are washed down the sink, they cool and can turn into a thick sludge that sticks to the lower parts of the pipes. Neither dishwashing detergents nor garbage disposals can effectively break down these materials, leading to a gradual build-up over time. Eventually, this sludge can cause blockages, backups, and overflow issues, which can pose significant health and environmental risks.

Follow these helpful tips on how to properly dispose of FOGs:

- Never rinse FOGs down the drain. Regardless of how powerful your garbage disposal may be, it cannot prevent FOGs from sticking to your pipes.
- Strain it, don't drain it. To prevent food scraps from entering the pipes, install a basket or strainer in the drain and dispose of the trapped pieces in the trash.
- Let's talk trash. Before washing, scrape all food scraps and FOGs from plates, pots, and utensils into the trash.

About American Water
American Water (NYSE: AWK) is the largest regulated water and wastewater utility company in the United States. With a history dating back to 1886, We Keep Life Flowing® by providing safe, clean, reliable and affordable drinking water and wastewater services to more than 14 million people with regulated operations in 14 states and on 18 military installations. American Water's 6,500 talented professionals leverage their significant expertise and the company's national size and scale to achieve excellent outcomes for the benefit of customers, employees, investors and other stakeholders.

For more information, visit amwater.com and join American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X and Instagram.

About California American Water
California American Water, a subsidiary of American Water, provides high-quality and reliable water and wastewater services to approximately 700,000 people. For more information, visit www.californiaamwater.com and follow California American Water on LinkedIn, Facebook, X, and Instagram.

Media Contacts

Luke Gianni

External Affairs

831.236.8523

luke.gianni@amwater.com

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