



Activity: Contain the Grease Monster

Topic: FOG

TEKS: N/A

Background: <watch the Galveston Bay Foundation and City of Houston FOG videos>

Fats, Oils, and Grease (collectively known as FOG) pose a big, and often costly, problem for water quality and public health. Fats, Oils, and Grease from cooking or other foods are frequently disposed of down the drain when washing dishes after meals. Items like butter, margarine, salad dressing, gravy, bacon grease, sour cream, milk, yogurt, and more go down the drain, but unlike water they can congeal, harden and stick to pipes forming clogs. These clogs can force water (or sewage) back up the pipes and into your homes. Even when hot or boiling water is poured down the drain, it just pushes the issue further along the pipe system where clogs can cause sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) in the streets and lead to pollution of our waterways and public health hazards. Fortunately, helping to “Cease the Grease” and “Protect Our Pipes” is simple – before rinsing or washing dishes pour oils and grease in a container that you can throw away when it is full, or use a paper towel or scraper to wipe the excess food and FOG into the trash can.



Materials:

- Empty jar, can, or other container with a lid
- Miscellaneous art supplies, examples could include:
 - Paper
 - Markers
 - Miscellaneous art supplies (pipe cleaners, pom poms, buttons, etc.)
 - Tape
 - Glue
 - Scissors



Instructions:

Part 1 – Make/Decorate a Container to Store FOG

1. Pick an empty container with a lid. Containers will ultimately be disposed of after being filled with FOG, so don't use any containers you want to keep. Good container options are often empty glass gravy or sauce jars.
2. Decorate the container in your preferred way to remind you to fill it with FOG rather than pouring it down the drain. Two suggestions include:
 - a. Use paper to make a label around the container with all the FOG items or reminders on why not to pour FOG down the drain – decorated to your style.
 - b. Create a "Grease Monster" out of the jar to feed rather than pouring FOG down the drain. Examples of "Grease Monsters" can be seen from [Blue Water Baltimore's FOG Monster Mash project](#).
3. If you don't want to include it on the container, you can also make a word or picture list of all the FOG items you might cook with or eat so you don't forget – you can make it with regular paper or small index cards to make it easy to keep by the container.
4. Show off your container or "Grease Monster" with your class.