

Keep pipes clear of fat, oil and grease

Home garbage disposals can't remove it. Dish soap or detergent won't dissolve it. And hot water won't melt it. What is it?

It's fat, oil and grease, the common causes of clogged pipes in homes and neighborhoods.

Fat, oil and grease are naturally produced during cooking and baking. They include

- meat fat, lard, butter, shortening
- vegetable oil, margarine, salad dressings and cream-based sauces
- greasy food scraps, baked goods and pastries

When you wash any of these down your kitchen drain they may harden and clog pipes, even if you chase them with soap and hot water or a flip of the garbage disposal switch. Over time, fat, oil and grease coat pipes and contribute to blockages that can cause a sewage backup in your home or possibly a sewage overflow into your neighborhood streets, nearby creeks and San Francisco Bay.

Prevent a kitchen headache and costly repairs this holiday season by taking one of these preventative steps:

Scrape greasy food from pots, pans and dishes into the garbage or residential compost collection bin, if available in your community.

Wipe greasy pots, pans or dishes with a paper towel or newspaper before washing. Put the greasy newspaper or paper towel in your residential compost collection bin, if available in your community.

Pour small amounts of fats, cooking oils and grease that will harden or congeal, such as bacon grease or meat drippings, into a container with a lid. Add absorbent material, like paper, and dispose of it in the garbage.

Take large amounts of fats, oils and grease to a cooking oil and grease drop-off location. Cooking oil and grease are recycled into biofuels such as biodiesel, a cleaner-burning alternative fuel.



Residential cooking oil and grease drop-off locations

All EBMUD residential customers **EBMUD Wastewater Treatment Plant**
2020 Wake Avenue
Oakland

All EBMUD residential customers **Whole Foods Market**
230 Bay Place, Oakland

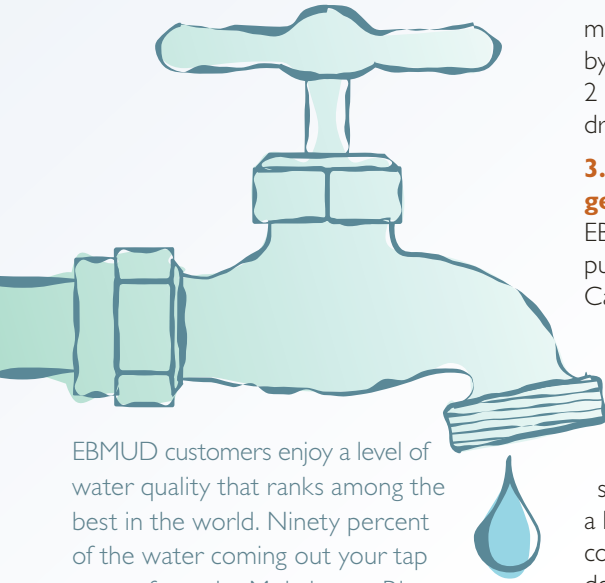
Residents of Crockett, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Hercules, Kensington, Pinole, Port Costa, Richmond, Rodeo and San Pablo **West Contra Costa County Household Hazardous Waste Facility**
101 Pittsburg Avenue
Richmond

Residents of Alamo, Blackhawk, Clayton, Concord, Clyde, Danville, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Orinda, Pacheco, Pleasant Hill, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, and Central County unincorporated areas **Central Contra Costa County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program**
4797 Imhoff Place
Martinez

This winter, EBMUD celebrates 60 years of protecting San Francisco Bay through wastewater treatment and pollution prevention. Do your part to keep the Bay clean: keep fats, oils and grease out of your home's drains. Order your free EBMUD grease scraper at the EBMUD on line store at www.ebmud.com or by calling 510-287-1651.



Answers to your tap water quality questions



EBMUD customers enjoy a level of water quality that ranks among the best in the world. Ninety percent of the water coming out your tap comes from the Mokelumne River on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada. When water demand is high or in emergencies, EBMUD supplements the Sierra supply with water from local watersheds.

All this water is treated and filtered at one of EBMUD's water treatment plants before entering the distribution system and reaching your tap. Still, you may have a question about your water quality:

1. Is my tap water safe to drink?

Yes, your water is safe to drink. EBMUD conducts more than 20,000 laboratory tests annually that measure for more than 100 constituents.

2. Should I be concerned about lead?

You may have heard about lead in drinking water in some U.S. cities. There are no known lead water pipes in the EBMUD distribution system. In addition, an EBMUD-sponsored state law now requires all home plumbing fixtures sold in California to be lead-free. However, your home may still have plumbing that contains lead. You can

minimize the potential for lead exposure by running your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using the water for drinking or cooking.

3. If I have health concerns, should I get a home water treatment system?

EBMUD water meets or surpasses every public health requirement set by the California Department of Public Health and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. EBMUD's annual water quality report is available at www.ebmud.com.

Home treatment devices range from faucet-mounted filters to whole-house systems. If you are considering purchasing a home filter system, first decide what constituents you want to remove and determine if the system will perform the

desired treatment. Maintenance is important with any home treatment device because an inadequately maintained filter can reduce water quality.

4. What should I do if I see particles floating in my tap water or if I do not like the smell or taste of my water?

Common issues in customer homes include floating particles from old rusty plumbing or old water heaters, or a change in odor or taste of your tap water.


If you have a water quality concern, call EBMUD at 1-866-403-2683 to speak with a water quality specialist. We will investigate to determine if the problem originates in our distribution system, or help you diagnose what in your home may be causing the concern.



Fall yard clean-up prevents winter storm headaches

Winter is just around the corner and it's time to get your home ready for the rainy season. Prevent unnecessary flooding and damage to your or your neighbor's property by clearing excess debris in your yard that may wash away and block storm drains.

The East Bay has many beautiful, natural creeks running through residential neighborhoods. During storms, excess vegetation and debris also can wash into creeks, knock down debris dams, block storm drains and cause damage to downstream properties. This winter remember to maintain creeks on your property free of debris.

 **EAST BAY
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EBMUD Mission Statement

To manage the natural resources with which the District is entrusted; to provide reliable, high-quality water and wastewater services at fair and reasonable rates for the people of the East Bay; and to preserve and protect the environment for future generations.