

# Cooking Oil RECYCLING



*It's not just for the holidays anymore.*



## Avoid Calling the Plumber

Just like melted butter, cooking grease eventually solidifies in the sewer system.

It may seem like an easy solution to a messy problem, but pouring fryer oil down the drain will just lead to a nastier problem. Oil and grease rinsed down the plumbing system can congeal and block pipes, causing sewer back-ups. Recycling your cooking oil may save your home from a clogged drain—and a visit from the plumber.

Clogs can also occur outside your home in the public sewage system, resulting in raw sewage overflowing a manhole in the street or a cleanout on your property. As sewage flows down the street, it enters the storm drain system, where it is then carried straight into our local waterways without any treatment. Polluted storm water and sanitary sewer overflow runoff can lead to costly clean up and severe fines from State and Federal regulatory agencies.

## Where Can I Recycle My Used Cooking Oil?

Disposing of gallons of fryer oil can seem overwhelming. What do you do with it all? Pouring it down the kitchen sink or the storm drain is simply asking for a clogged pipe. Instead, recycle it at one of these Mesa Fire Stations year round.

**Fire Station 204, 1426 S. Extension**

**Fire Station 212, 2430 S. Ellsworth**

**Fire Station 214, 5950 E. Virginia**

**Mesa Surplus Store (east parking lot), 7041 E. Adobe**

## What Happens to the Oil After I Recycle It?

A recycler will turn the oil into products that can be used to feed livestock, power vehicles, and act as a base for everyday items.

## More Drain-Saving Tips

Grease causes a majority of sanitary sewer blockages in houses. Homeowners are responsible for maintaining the portion of the sanitary sewer pipe that runs from their homes to the main sewer lines. Since home lines are smaller, they clog more easily; so, keep grease and food scraps out of your sink and toilet drains.

- *Scrape food scraps, oil and grease from kitchen utensils and equipment into the trash before washing to help keep grease out of wash water.*
- *Use a paper towel to wipe up small amounts of cooking oil, such as meat drippings. Throw the paper towels in the trash.*
- *Never pour oil and grease down the drain. Hot water will not wash the grease away.*

For more information or questions, please contact David Gonzales with the Water Resources Department at **480-644-2484** or **david.gonzales@mesaaz.gov**

