



## TUOLUMNE UTILITIES DISTRICT

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### AGENCIES JOIN FORCES TO PROMOTE SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT AND YOUR PIPES DURING THE HOLIDAYS!

SONORA, CA: With the holiday season officially kicking off for the Thanksgiving holiday, many Tuolumne County residents will be busy cooking in their kitchens. To avoid potential plumbing and sewer disasters, Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD), along with the County of Tuolumne, Solid Waste Division, Waste Management, Twain Harte Community Services District and Jamestown Sanitary District, would like to remind residents to avoid pouring fats or cooking oils down the drain because liquid fats solidify in the pipes and create clogs. Sewer blockages can cause backups into homes resulting in an unpleasant mess that can cost hundreds and sometimes thousands of dollars to clean up.

Listed below are the following tips to help you avoid a plumbing emergency this holiday season and to ensure proper disposal of waste fats, oil and grease:

- Avoid pouring fats or vegetable cooking oils down the drain because liquid fats solidify in the pipes and create clogs.
- After grease has cooled, scrape the grease into a container with a tight fitting lid, solidify in the refrigerator before putting it in the trash.
- Never put hard to grind items in your garbage disposal, including poultry skins, egg shells, carrots, celery, pumpkin pulp, banana peels or pasta.

**COOKING OIL COLLECTION:** Tuolumne Utilities District (TUD) in a partnership with Waste Management, the County of Tuolumne and Darling Inc. has setup a cooking oil collection receptacle at the Waste Management transfer station. There is a minimal gate fee charge of \$4.00 at the transfer station. The collection site is ***open to residential customers*** to safely dispose of their used cooking oil instead of washing it down the sink or putting liquid oils in the trash. Solid or semi-solid fats are not accepted. Waste Management's transfer station is located at 19309 Industrial Drive in Sonora and is open from 8am to 4:45pm, 7 days a week (including Thanksgiving Day).

For more information on the best way to dispose of fats, oils and grease, please visit TUD's website at [www.tudwater.com](http://www.tudwater.com) or stop by TUD's office at 18885 Nugget Blvd., in Sonora for a free informational brochure.