

# How **Pinky the Elf** Saved the Holidays from the **Grease Monster**





"Well, this'll show Santa," Pinky mumbled as the bus pulled away. She had saved all her elf money for a ticket to Pueblo, hoping the trip would get her away from the frustrations at the North Pole as Christmas was drawing near. She just needed an escape.

Pinky was sad. She slumped in her seat, thinking about the things that she couldn't do. She was the tiniest elf, after all. All the other elves were big enough to help Santa with his big jobs – loading the sleigh with packages, using heavy power tools to make toys, or even fixing Mrs. Claus' rocking chair.





When the bus rolled past The Home of Heroes sign, Pinky knew she had made it to Pueblo. She'd heard what a great place it was, filled with friendly people and fun things to do. "Do you know how far it is to Union Avenue?" she asked the bus driver, hoping it could get her mind off all the tasks she was too small to perform at the North Pole.



After getting her directions, she started walking right away, glad to be out of Santa's workshop for once. She was admiring all the cute houses in Pueblo when she suddenly smelled something horrible. She started walking towards the source of the smell and discovered a sewer overflow going into a house! It had been caused by cooking grease, oils and fats. It had to be the work of the Grease Monster! Pinky had seen the Grease Monster before at the North Pole but the elves had chased him away by not putting any grease, oil and fats down the drains for him to eat. It seems the Grease Monster had found a new home in Pueblo.



Pinky saw a green glow in a basement window where a small girl slept. The Grease Monster was slowly oozing through the bathroom heading towards the little girl's room. Pinky had to do something to save the little girl, but who could help in the middle of the night? Pinky shouted, pounding on the windowpane with all the strength her little elf body could muster, yelling "call the City of Pueblo Wastewater Department!" Pinky's noise drew the attention of the girl's parents, who rushed into the bedroom, shocked to see a tiny elf yelling at their window. They immediately saw the Grease Monster and carried their daughter up to safety and then called the City of Pueblo Wastewater Department.





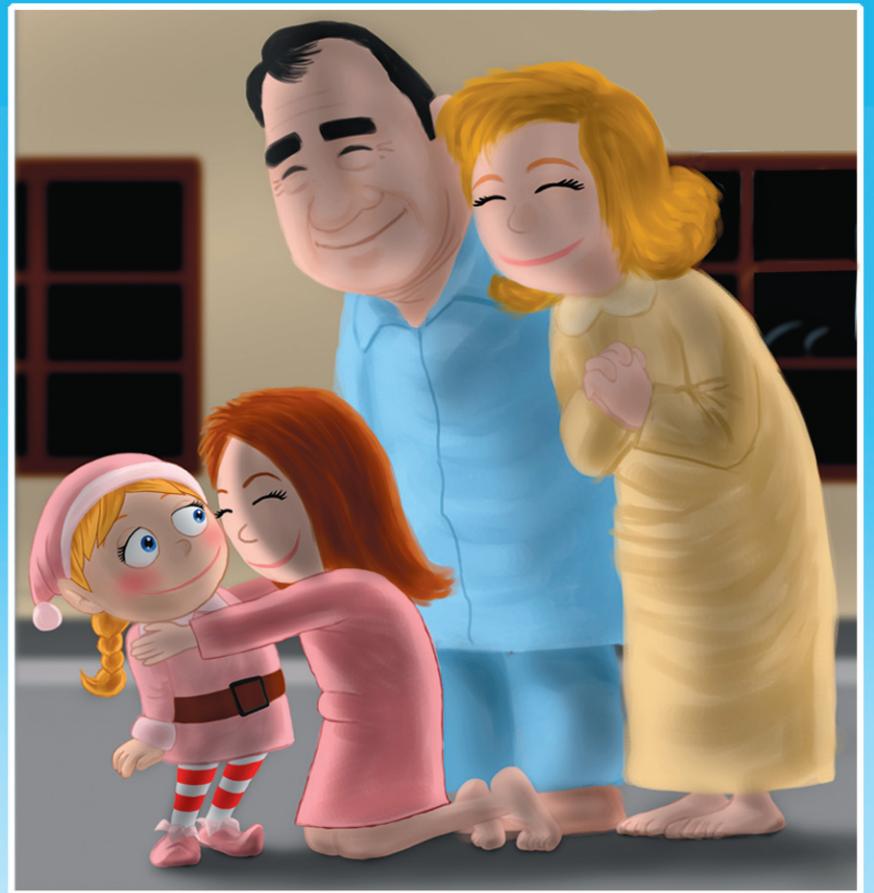
The City of Pueblo Wastewater Department rushed to the scene and with its modern equipment and dedicated and efficient crew, removed the Grease Monster out of the pipes.

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"That little elf saved our homes and businesses," said the daughter, giving the tiny Pinky a great big hug.

"Thank you so much!"

The next day, Pinky was a hero. Her story made the front page of *The Pueblo Chieftain*, and everybody in Pueblo was talking about her bravery. She even got a medal from the City Manager, Sam Azad, for courage and service to the community.





Pinky knew her job wasn't over. She had to let the citizens of Pueblo know the City of Pueblo Wastewater Department can't fight the Grease Monster alone. The citizens of Pueblo need to eliminate the Grease Monster by canning the grease and never letting it go down the drain. Pinky was loved by the community of Pueblo and was asked to stay to help them fight against the Grease Monster.



Pinky thought about it. Staying in Pueblo sounded so appealing, but she also knew her calling in life was to be an elf. As she bought her bus ticket back to the North Pole, she realized she'd learned an important lesson that would serve her well at Santa's workshop, it's not the size of the individual that matters. It is the size of the knowledge they have to make the right choices. Just before Pinky boarded the bus back to the North Pole she reminded everyone in Pueblo to call the City of Pueblo Wastewater Department anytime, day or night, if they are having sewer problems so everyone can have a great holiday season.



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Santa welcomed Pinky back with open arms. Santa was so proud of Pinky for educating the citizens of Pueblo on how to eliminate the Grease Monster by canning their fats, oils and grease and not allowing it to go down the drains and sewers.

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**CEASE THE GREASE!**



**It's A No-Drainer**

## Do!

- ✓ Put used oil and grease in covered containers.
- ✓ Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash cans and garbage bags and dispose of properly. Avoid using your garbage disposal.
- ✓ Remove oil and grease from dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles. Cool first before you skim, scrape, or wipe off excess grease.
- ✓ Rinse dishes and pans with cold water before putting them in the dishwasher.
- ✓ Cover the kitchen sink drain with a catch basket and empty into garbage as needed.



## Don't!

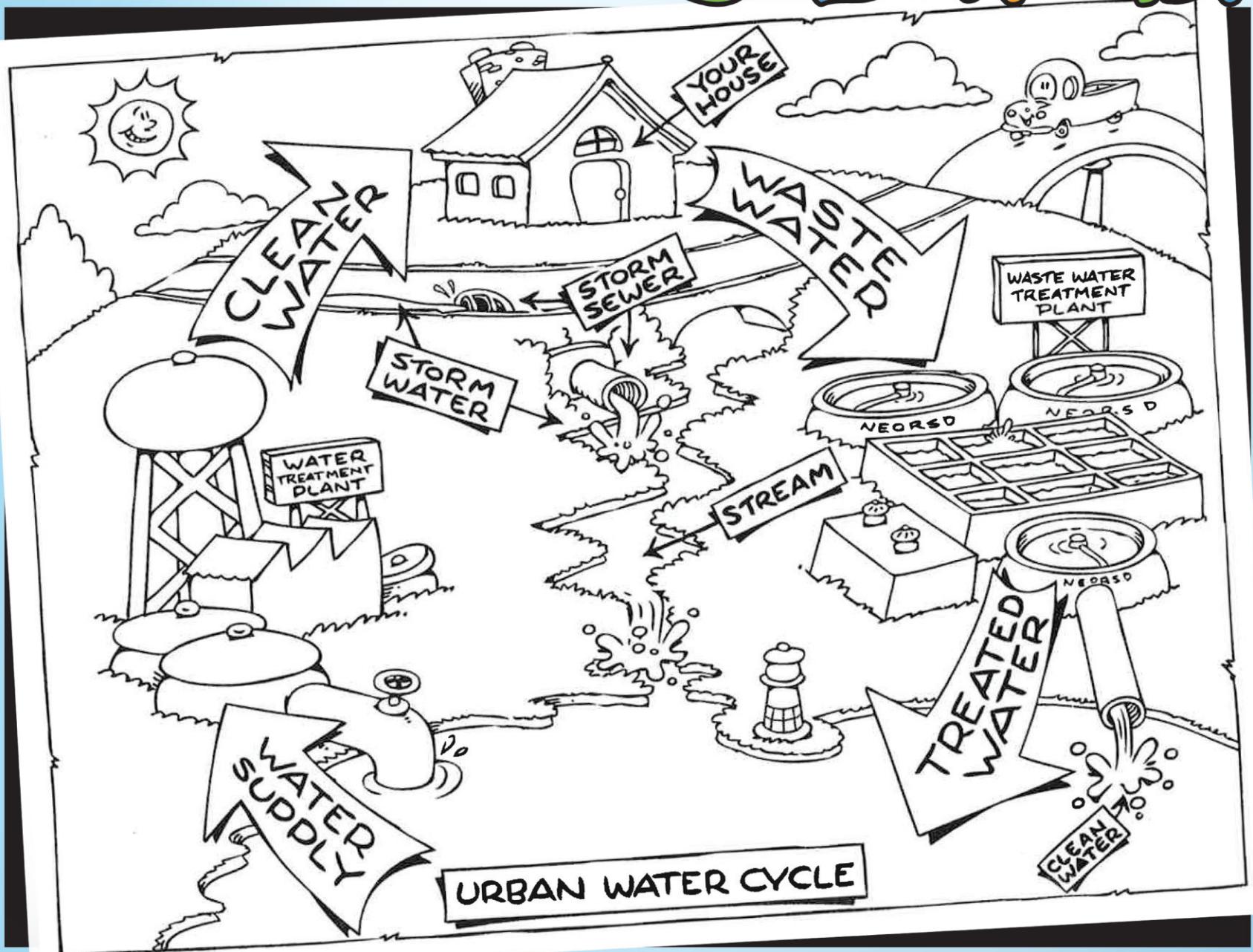
- ✗ Don't pour oil and grease down the drain.
- ✗ Don't put food scraps down the drain
- ✗ Don't run water over dishes, pans, fryers, and griddles to wash oil and grease down the drain.
- ✗ Don't rinse water off oil and grease with hot water.



### More ways to Tackle Grease

- ▶ Use environmentally safe cleaning products instead of harsh detergents or cleaners that can damage sewer mains
- ▶ If you generate large amounts of used cooking oil, reuse or recycle it.
- ▶ If you generate small amounts of used cooking oil, reuse it as often as possible and then pour it into a container you can throw away. Never pour it down the drain.
- ▶ Start a compost pile at your home with food scraps that are not meat.

# COLOR ME!



# GREASE CAN JAM YOUR HOLIDAYS!



Fats, oil and grease in the wrong place can cause major damage in your home.



Clogged pipes can cause raw sewage to back up into your home, your yard, the streets and eventually the waterways. So, what can you do to prevent grease from plugging your drains?

Recycle grease or place in trash

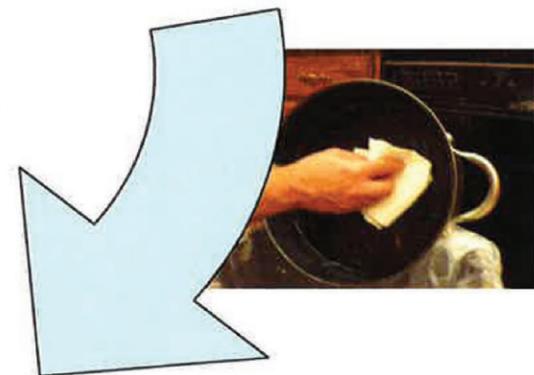


- Pour cooled grease into a can or plastic bottle and then place it in the trash.

- Use rubber scrapers and paper towels to remove oil and grease from cookware.

- Scrape food scraps from dishes into trash.

- Avoid using garbage disposal.



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Help eliminate costly sewer blockages that cause backups into homes and businesses. It is the responsibility of homeowners to maintain building sewers, service lines, and private sewers that connect to the City of Pueblo sanitary sewer.

For drain problems: Contact the City of Pueblo Wastewater Department at 553-2898, or after business hours call 553-2538