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WHAT ARE DRAINS AND SEWERS?

Before we talk about fatbergs, it's important to understand what drains and sewers are and why they are so important.

Running from your home, underneath your garden or front path, is a pipe that takes all of the nasty waste and water from the toilets, baths, sinks and dishwashers in your house.

This wastewater is taken along this pipe into a network of larger pipes that run beneath our cities, towns and villages.

These big pipes - called drains or sewers - are designed to take all of this wastewater to special treatment centres, where the water is cleaned before being sent back into our rivers and oceans.

What would happen without drains and sewers?

Underground drains and sewers were built because wastewater, sewage and pollution was finding its way onto the streets and into our rivers and causing nasty diseases that often, sadly, led to people becoming extremely sick.

So without them your home and the streets would smell terrible and probably make you very ill!



A fatberg is a huge lump of fat that gets stuck in the sewers and drains that are underground in all of our cities, towns and villages.

They all start small, and at first they are difficult to notice, but they start to grow over time as more fat gets put down drains. They get even bigger again as they combine with other things that shouldn't be in our drains, such as wet wipes, kitchen roll and cotton buds.

WHY ARE FATBERGS DANGEROUS?

Remember how our drains and sewers are so important for taking nasty wastewater away from our buildings?

Well, if they get blocked, it means that sewers and drains don't work as effectively as they should and could even lead to flooding and problems with pollution.

If this wastewater and foul air gets out into our streets and homes, it could make people ill. And it would smell disgusting!

Unfortunately fatbergs, as they grow, start to block our drains and sewers.

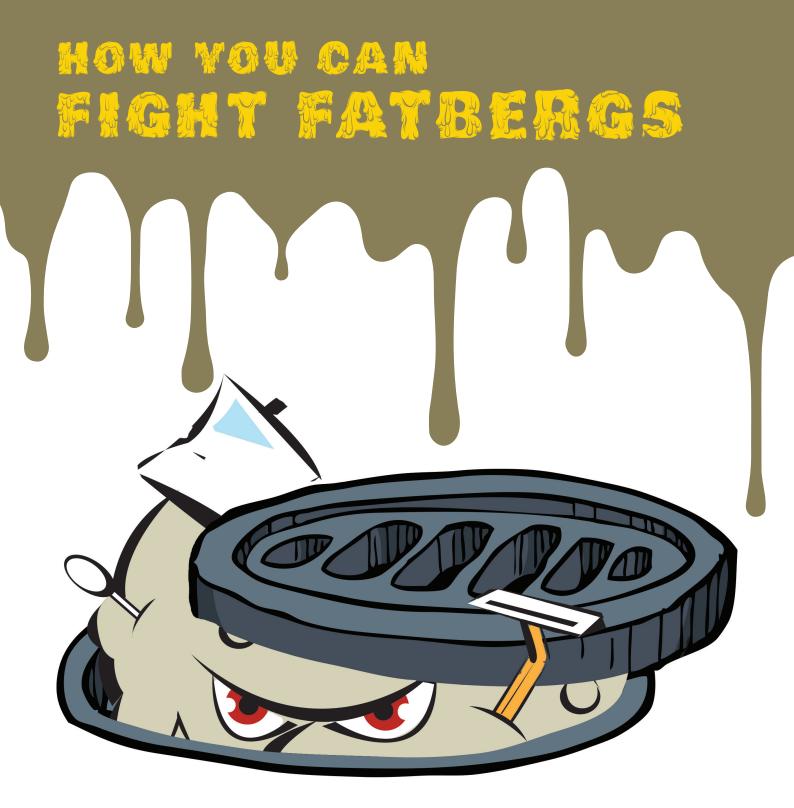
We recently found one underground in London that was 250 metres long - the length of 11 double-decker buses or two Wembley football pitches! Imagine 11 double-decker buses being parked in a drain and you can imagine why they can cause serious problems.



Another problem fatbergs can cause is that they need to be removed from our drains and sewers, which takes time and means big parts of our roads need to be dug up.

Have you ever been stuck in a traffic jam for a long time because of roadworks? It's frustrating isn't it! Well, lots of roadworks are caused by work that needs to be done on drains and sewers.

If we can fight fatbergs, then it will mean fewer roadworks and less time spent sitting in a traffic jam!



The good news is it's possible for you - YES YOU! - to fight fatbergs and stop them blocking our drains and sewers.

You can personally help us make sure this amazing underground system continues to work and keep you, your family, friends and neighbours free from disease. Oh and help keep them out of traffic jams at the same time!

Here is how you can help:

HOW YOU CAN FIGHT FATBERGS

1. Make sure your family never pours fats, oils and grease (FOG) down the sink - this is particularly important in the kitchen.



HOW YOU CAN FIGHT FATBERGS

2. Clear all food from your plates into a bin, rather than emptying it down the sink. Even crumbs can help fatbergs to grow!



HOW YOU CAN FIGHT FATBERGS

3. Remember to follow the 3 Ps (pee, poo and paper): only flush pee, poo and toilet paper down the toilet. Anything else needs to go in the bin.

Now that you are an official Fatberg Fighter, you need to help your family and friends remember these three key points at all times.







PRESENTED TO:

For excellence in fighting fatbergs and helping to keep our drains and sewers running smoothly.

SIGNATURE

DATE



Lanes Group is the UK's largest independent drainage contractor with three branded companies and several operating divisions across the UK.

Our services include:

- Drain and sewer cleaning
- Drain and sewer inspection
- Drain and sewer repair
- Drain and sewer relining
- CCTV surveying
- Septic tank installation & cleaning
- Home buyers drain surveys

For more information, visit <u>www.lanesfordrains.co.uk</u> or call us on 0800 526 488.