Bacteria system helps clear drain blocks

A trial that used bacteria pumped into the drainage network, combined with improved kitchen practices, has cleared the blockages that once plagued the pipes and drains under the restaurant district of Chelmsford.

Fats, oils and grease or FOGs have long been a problem. Sluiced down waste pipes at restaurants and fast food outlets, they combine to form solids that block pipe-work and clog up pumping stations.

As part of the trial, Anglian Water pumped bacteria into the drainage network. The Environmental Biotech bacterial bio-remediation system introduces live bacteria into the drainage network that eats FOG. It is then carried away as the water flows through the system. Eventually the micro-organisms die and are dissolved, eliminating the fat from the system.

The trial was supervised by the Water Research Centre, which monitored the performance of the process in an Anglian Water sewer serving the area of Baddow Road, Chelmsford in Essex.

Chelmsford BC's EHOs were also partners in the campaign. Since the trial began, no instances of blocked pipe-work have been recorded.

Clean-up: the bacteria system helps break down grease

Anglian has now adopted the system process across its extensive region. Gary Collins of Anglian Water said: 'This was the best and most comprehensive process. Not only did the system deal with site-specific issues, but it also dealt with fugitive FOG discharge in the sewer from other food outlets.'

Aziz Tejpar, managing director of Environmental Biotech, said the trial was accelerating dialogue with other regional waste water utilities. 'We stress that our bio-remedial solution is used in conjunction with improved practices in the workplace; kitchen staff and management need to pay more attention and care to the removal of the kitchen waste. The Environmental Biotech bacterium completes the clearing and protection process,' he said.

Dangers of kitchen grease

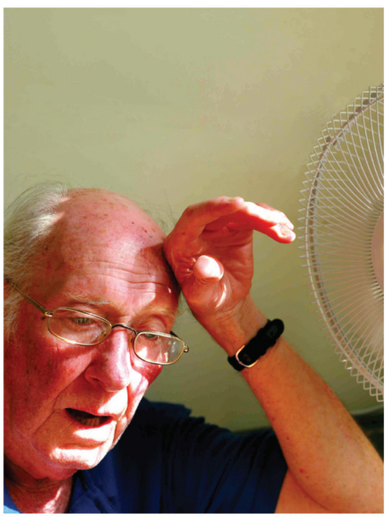
Fats, oils and grease are often washed into the plumbing system, (usually through kitchen sinks and floor drains found in food preparation areas) and stick to the insides of sewer pipes. Over time they build up and eventually block the entire pipe, causing sewage backups and overflows. Nationwide, about £15m is spent on clearing drain blockages every year.

Chartered Institute of Environmental Health

An unhealthy climate?

The public health implications of climate change

Thursday 20 November 2008 – London



The CIEH is organising a conference to highlight the public health impacts of climate change. While the media and government have tended to focus on the physical impacts of climate change like flooding and droughts, this conference will bring together a wide array of speakers to address and examine the health implications of climate change.

The conference aim is to bring together senior figures in public health to discuss future strategies and solutions.

The conference will address the following issues:

- Policy frameworks to mitigate the public health impacts of climate change
- Tackling the major challenges and dilemmas facing Government, the public health profession and business
- Securing a safe food supply
- The threat from climate sensitive pest borne diseases
- The role of public health practitioners in adapting to climate change

Confirmed speakers

Professor Ian Lowe, Emeritus Professor, Griffith University, Australia

Professor Tim Lang, Professor of Food Policy, City University

Dr David Pencheon, Director of the NHS Sustainable Development Unit (SDU)

Justin McCracken, Chief Executive, Health Protection Agency

Dame Deirdre Hutton, Chair, Food Standards Agency

For details on how to book your delegate place please contact Priti Patel on 020 7827 5875, p.patel@cieh.org or visit our website www.cieh.org/events

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