



KEEP **GREASE** OUT OF THE SYSTEM

Grease Interceptor Maintenance

Tips For Hiring a Maintenance Service Provider

- **Obtain** cost estimates from several different service providers and compare prices. Be wary if a quote is much lower than others — this may be an indication that the waste hauler is illegally dumping.
- **Require** the service to describe their pumping and cleaning procedures, in writing.
- **Require** the service to describe the disposal method and disposal destination for your wastes, in writing. As the food service facility owner or operator, you

can be held liable for the improper disposal of any waste generated by your facility, even if the actual work is performed by a third party.

- **Require** the service to include in writing that they intend to comply with all applicable municipal sewer ordinances, federal, state and local regulations relating to grease waste handling and disposal in performance of the work.
- **Require** the service provide advance notice before each scheduled visit if you have a pre-set maintenance schedule with them (e.g., every 90 days). You should have a representative

present to confirm that proper pumping is being performed.

- A visual inspection should be done periodically after pumping, or when plumbers work on laterals, to ensure the interceptor standpipes are undamaged.

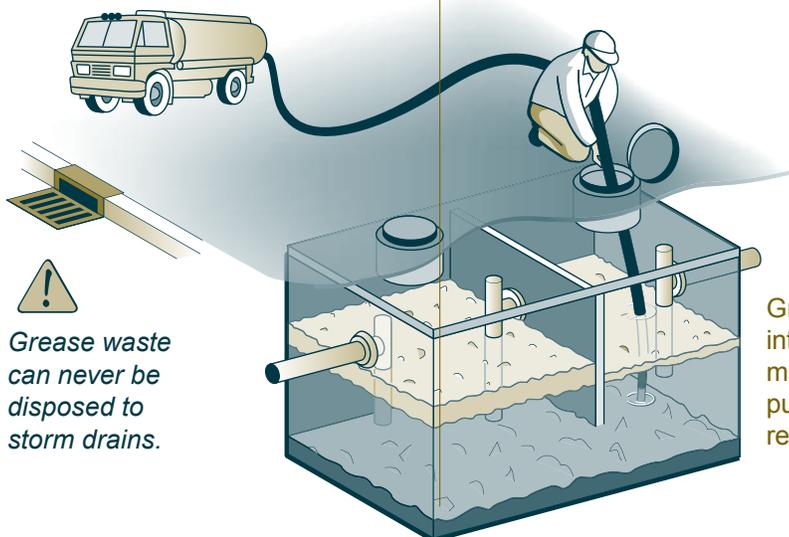


Recommended Pumping Practices

Include the following pumping practices in your contract.

- **Require** the service to wash down the grease from the sides and baffles inside the unit so they can be pumped.
- **Require** the interceptor be pumped **dry**, removing as much of the floating grease, water, and 'sludge' on the bottom as possible.

Continued on back



Grease waste can never be disposed to storm drains.

Grease interceptors must be pumped dry regularly

Grease in the system causes problems in storm drains and sanitary sewers — and increases your operating costs.

- **Do not allow** the service to decant wastewater back into the interceptor; the grease and solids content in such water is very high, and may cause odors.
- **Require** the service to refill the interceptor with clean water after pumping dry.



*Solid, semi-solid, or liquefied grease waste should **never** be disposed into **kitchen sinks, mop sinks, floor drains, etc.** which are connected to the sanitary sewer system. Discharging oil and grease to the sanitary sewer system may result in a violation of local sewer use ordinances. Caution should be used in discharging greasy wastewater to the grease interceptor.*

Tips On Cleaning Frequency

- It is important to clean your grease interceptor regularly to prevent fats, oil and grease in water discharged to the sewer from:
 - Exceeding the discharge limit of 150 parts per million set by your local sewer use ordinance.
 - Causing visible floating grease or grease deposits in the piping downstream from the interceptor. If you can see floating grease or grease deposits in a cleanout or discharge pipe ‘downstream’ of the trap, you need to increase the service frequency.
 - Causing blockages and eventual overflow into your establishment, or to the environment.
- The **minimum cleaning frequency** required for grease interceptors installed for food service facilities is **quarterly**. However, more frequent cleaning intervals may be necessary to prevent your grease interceptor from operating poorly or improperly.

- If you can see floating grease or grease deposits in the sample box or discharge standpipe of the interceptor, you need to increase the service frequency. Make sure your service cleans such deposits off the piping so you can tell when new grease deposits form.

Keep cleaning documentation for a period of not less than three years. See “Maintenance Documentation” sheet for more information.



*Solid, semi-solid, or liquefied grease waste can **never** be disposed to the **storm drain system**. Discharging oil and grease to the storm drain is a violation of local sewer use ordinances.*

SAN JOSE/SANTA CLARA
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL PLANT
(408) 945-3000

Tributary agencies served by the treatment plant: San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino Sanitary District, West Valley Sanitation District (including Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga), County Sanitation Districts 2-3, Sunol & Burbank Sanitary Districts.



Environmental Services

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