

# Grease Interceptor Maintenance

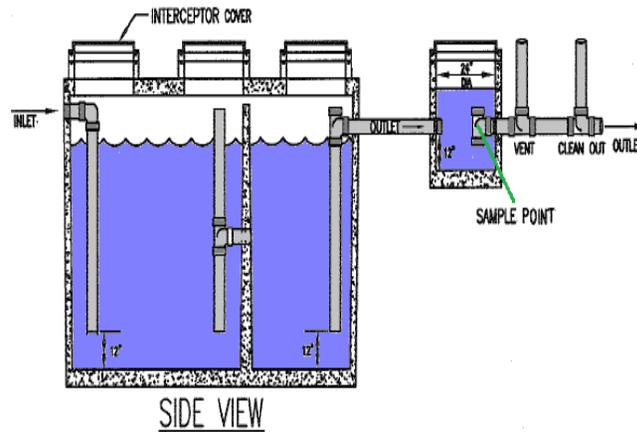
*Maintenance of your grease interceptors is required as a condition of your permit and to assure that the unit works properly.*

## Why do you need a grease interceptor?

A grease interceptor removes fats, oils, and grease that coat city sewer lines and cause sewer overflows. If an overflow occurs, you may be responsible for clean-up costs and property damage.

## How does a grease interceptor work?

Wastewater enters the unit after leaving the kitchen. Most of the floating grease remains at the top and the solids settle at the bottom of the first chamber of the unit (see diagram). Water flows into the second chamber where more solids and grease separate out. The remaining water then flows out of the unit to the community sewer.



## How often do I need to clean my grease interceptor?

Your permit requires that you clean your interceptor a minimum of every 3 months (90 days). It must be cleaned more frequently if the amount of grease discharged causes or contributes to a blockage or overflow in the city collection system. Be sure that your hauler is doing a complete pump out of the unit and checking for repairs at the time of every service. Also, be sure that your hauler leaves you a receipt to document that your interceptor has been pumped.

## What will an inspector look for during an inspection of my grease interceptor?

An inspector will look to see that you are maintaining and pumping your grease interceptor frequently enough to comply with your permit and to keep grease from discharging to the city sewer. They will ask to see your pumping records, including the dates that the grease interceptor was pumped and by what hauler. Have these records available for the inspector to review.

## What are some Best Management Practices (BMPs) for grease interceptors?

Grease and solid food waste can build up inside the interceptor and may cause the interceptor to operate less efficiently. Scraping grease and food waste to the garbage before washing dishes will minimize the amount of grease and solids going into the grease interceptor and will improve interceptor performance.



City of Cypress

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