

# Grease Recovery Systems

Grease enters food establishment grease traps from dishwashers, sinks, floor drains, and dumpster pads. Grease traps are used to recover the grease and protect the sewer lines. Blockage of sewer lines occurs when traps are not maintained properly. Escaping grease builds up on the walls of the sewer until the line is completely blocked. Proper maintenance requires the entire contents of a grease trap to be pumped out every three months.

## Exterior Grease Traps

Grease traps are designed for the incoming wastewater to be slowed to allow the grease to float to the top and solids to settle out on the bottom. 90° angle pipes called T-valves keep the floating grease from flowing out of the trap (Figure 1).

The volume of the tank allows the grease to slow down, cool, and rise to the top. A baffle helps control the grease in the trap. If the grease, solids and bottom sludge are not completely pumped out, a minimum of every three months, new grease has no where to collect and escapes to the sewer.

The Cobb County Water and Wastewater Ordinance, Section 122-188, requires all food establishments, or any company that exceeds the wastewater limit for grease and oil, to have a grease recovery system. The size of the grease trap is based on (20) gallons per seat and other factors. The traps shall have a minimum 750-gallon capacity. All new restaurants must have grease traps approved by the Engineering Division of the Cobb County Water System.

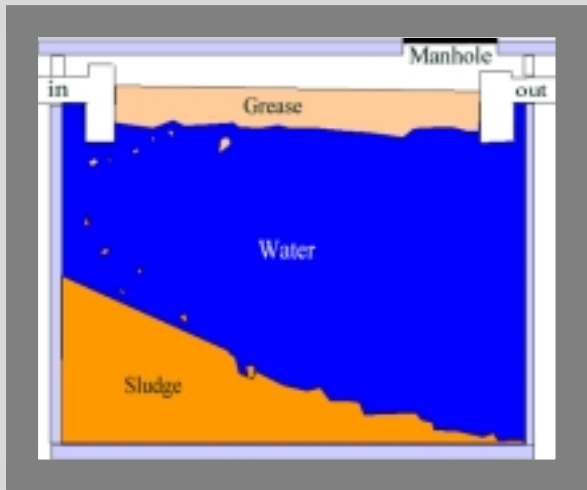


Figure 1

## Active Interior Recovery Devices

In existing buildings that cannot install exterior grease traps, the county may allow active interior recovery devices. However, these devices are subject to heat from dishwashing, mechanical failures, heavy grease, oil, and solids loading. Frequent cleaning is necessary in order to achieve the intended purpose of the grease recovery device. For this reason a log must be kept indicating each cleaning or maintenance for the previous 12 months. This log must be available for inspection by Cobb County Water System personnel and the Health Department.

### Passive Interior Devices (P.I.D.s)

A P.I.D. is an oil/water separating container that requires manual cleaning by pumping or bailing. No new P.I.D.s can be installed in any users premises. A log must be kept for inspections indicating cleaning, maintenance, and disposal .

## Registration Requirement

Each food establishment that has, or is required to install, an Active Interior Recovery Device, P.I.D. or Exterior Grease Trap, shall register it with the Cobb

County Water System for the purpose of obtaining a Discharge Permit. The application includes the name, address, telephone number and factors indicating the potential for grease-laden waste to enter the sewer system. Discharge permits will be reviewed annually. Permits for establishments found to be in compliance with existing federal, state, and local laws and regulations will be renewed.

## Cobb County Water System Inspection

Environmental Compliance Inspectors examine food establishments to check compliance with Grease and Oil Program regulations. An inspector, bearing proper credentials, shall be permitted to enter and inspect all related properties without prior notification. Food establishments with problem grease traps are inspected more frequently. A re-inspection fee of \$50.00 is charged when an inspector has to return to a facility to ensure that the grease trap is back in compliance.

## Manifest Reporting and Information

Completed exterior grease trap manifests must be mailed to the Cobb County Water System Office of Environmental Compliance every three months, within 14 days after the grease trap has been pumped. The manifest shall contain information about the generator, transporter and receiver. Generator information includes the generators name and address, the gallons pumped, date and time of pumping, and signature of generator verifying the information. Transporter information includes company name, address, license plate number, permit number, and drivers' name and signature verifying transporter information. Receiving information, includes the facility's name, address, date and time of receiving, EPD number and signature verifying receipt of the waste.

# Waste Haulers

Companies can be located in your local phone book. An efficient hauler will provide you with the required manifest and all pertinent information for your submission to our office. Some illegal activities associated with haulers and restaurants have included skimming traps, or dumping collected waste into creeks, storm drains, other grease traps, or manholes. Make certain that the trap is being completely cleaned and the grease is not just skimmed off the top. The solids on the bottom can lower the efficiency of the trap as much as the grease layer.



Illegal "Pumping and Dumping" occurs when a hauler disposes of waste by dumping it into a grease trap or sewer instead of hauling it to a disposal site. All waste present in the trap is to be removed and taken off-site when the hauler leaves. No waste present in the truck at arrival may be emptied into the trap. A hauler should leave a clean, empty trap.

# Chemicals

While chemicals and enzymes may keep the grease blanket under control, the solids that settle out on the bottom of the trap reduce its efficiency. Chemicals may also cause the grease to be emulsified and flow out of the trap to re-form on the walls of the sanitary sewer. The alternative of adding chemicals to grease traps to reduce pumping requirements, is not allowed.



If you have questions about the Grease and Oil Program contact:

### Office of Environmental Compliance Cobb County Water System

680 South Cobb Drive  
Building 2  
Marietta, Georgia 30060-3111  
Phone: (770) 419-6430  
Fax: (770) 419-6390

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## Food Establishment Grease Recovery Systems

### For Your Information

The Cobb County Water System is committed to providing residents with a safe and cost effective wastewater collection and treatment system. Grease blockages in sewer lines are the major cause of sewer overflows and buildups in our collection system severely affecting maintenance and operational costs. When you maintain and operate your grease recovery system properly you are playing an important role in protecting public health and the environment.

The sewer system in Cobb County is designed to safely collect and transport sewage to one of four Wastewater Reclamation Facilities. As the responsible utility, Cobb County's Water System faces enforcement actions if overflows occur. Therefore, Cobb County has taken a proactive and aggressive approach to sewer line protection, maintenance and repair. Time and resources have been devoted to educating the industry on appropriate methods for stopping overflows. A comprehensive grease and oil program is a vital part of this effort.