



## FATS, OILS AND GREASE – BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

### Ways to Prevent Blockages in the Sanitary Sewer System

BMP	Reason For	Benefits to Food Service Establishment
Train kitchen staff and other employees about how they can help ensure BMPs are implemented.	People are usually more willing to support an effort if they understand the basis for it.	All of the subsequent benefits of BMPs will have a better chance of being implemented.
Post "No Grease" signs above all sinks and on the front of dishwashers.	Signs serve as a constant reminder for staff working in kitchens.	These reminders will help minimize grease discharge to the traps and interceptors.
Use water temperatures less than 140° F in the pre-rinse sink before the mechanical dishwasher.	Temperatures in excess of 140° F will dissolve grease, but the grease can re-congeal or solidify in the sanitary sewer collection system as the water cools.	The food service establishment may reduce its costs for the energy for heating the water.
Use a three-sink dishwashing system, which includes sinks for washing, rinsing, and sanitizing.	The three-sink system uses water temperatures less than 140° F where a mechanical dishwasher requires a minimum temperature of 180° F.	The food service establishment may reduce its costs for the energy for heating the water for the mechanical dishwasher and for operating the dishwasher.
Recycle waste cooking oil.	There are many waste oil recyclers throughout North Carolina. This is a cost recovery opportunity.	The food service establishment can be paid for the waste material.
"Dry wipe" pots, pans, and dishware prior to dishwashing.	The grease and food that remains on pots, pans, and dishware should go to a landfill. By "dry wiping" and disposing in garbage receptacles, the material will not be sent to the grease traps and interceptors.	This will reduce the amount of material going to grease traps and interceptors, which will require less frequent cleaning, reducing maintenance costs.



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Dispose of food waste by recycling and/or solid waste removal.	Some recyclers will take food waste for animal feed. In the absence of such recyclers, the food waste can be disposed as solid waste in landfills by solid waste haulers.	Recycling of food wastes will reduce the cost of solid waste disposal. Solid waste disposal of food waste will reduce the frequency and cost of grease trap and interceptor cleaning.
Witness all grease trap or interceptor cleaning and maintenance activities to ensure the device is properly operating.	Grease trap or interceptor pumpers may take shortcuts. Inspect the cleaning operation and ensure getting full value for the money.	The establishment will ensure it is getting value for the cost of cleaning the grease trap or interceptor.
Start by cleaning undersink grease traps weekly. If grease traps are more than 50% full when cleaned weekly, then the cleaning frequency needs to be increased.	Weekly cleaning of undersink grease traps by the establishment's own maintenance staff will reduce the cost of cleaning the grease interceptor.	This will extend the length of the cleaning cycle for grease interceptors that the establishment maintains.
Clean grease interceptors routinely, at least monthly.	Grease interceptors must be cleaned routinely to ensure that grease accumulation does not cause the interceptor to operate poorly.  The cleaning frequency is a function of the type of establishment, the size of the interceptor, and the volume of flow discharged by the establishment.	Routine cleaning will prevent plugging of the sewer line between the food service establishment and the sanitary sewer system. If the line plugs, the sewer line may back up into the establishment, and the business will need to hire someone to unplug it.



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Keep a maintenance log.	<p>The maintenance log serves as a record of the frequency and volume of cleaning the interceptor. It is required by the Sewer Use Ordinance to ensure that grease trap or interceptor maintenance is performed on a regular basis.</p>	<p>The maintenance log serves as a record of cleaning frequency and can help the establishment manager optimize cleaning frequency to reduce cost.</p>
<p>Cover outdoor grease and oil storage containers.</p> <p>Hendersonville has a BMP in place for storm water.</p>	<p>Uncovered grease and oil storage containers can collect rainwater. Since grease and oil float, the rainwater can cause an overflow onto the ground. Such an overflow will eventually reach the storm water system and nearby streams.</p>	<p>The discharge of grease and oil to the storm drain system will degrade the water quality of receiving streams. Discharge of grease and oil to the storm drain might also result in legal penalties or fines.</p>
<p>Locate grease dumpsters and storage containers away from storm drain catch basins.</p>	<p>The farther away from the catch basin, the more time someone has to clean up spills or drainage prior to entering the storm drain system.</p> <p>Be aware of oil and grease dripped on the ground while carrying waste to the dumpster.</p>	<p>The discharge of grease and oil to the storm drain system will degrade the water quality of receiving. Discharge of grease and oil to the storm drain might also result in legal penalties or fines.</p>



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Use absorbent pads or other material in the storm drain catch basins if grease dumpsters and containers must be located nearby.	Absorbent pads and other materials can serve as an effective barrier to grease and oil entering the storm drain system.	Discharge of grease and oil to the storm drain might also result in legal penalties or fines.
Use absorbent pads or other material to clean up spilled material around outdoor equipment, containers or dumpsters. Do not use free flowing absorbent materials such as "kitty litter" or sawdust that can be discharges to the storm drain system.	Absorbent pads or materials can help clean up grease and oil that is spilled on the ground and prevent it from flowing to the storm drain system.	Discharge of grease and oil to the storm drain might also result in legal penalties or fines.
Routinely clean kitchen exhaust system filters.	If grease and oil escape through the kitchen exhaust system, it can accumulate on the roof of the establishment and eventually enter the storm drain system when it rains.	Discharge of grease and oil to the storm drain might result in legal penalties or fines.