



The City Of San Diego Metropolitan Wastewater Department FOOD ESTABLISHMENT WASTEWATER DISCHARGE (FEWD) PERMIT PROGRAM

MAINTENANCE OF GREASE REMOVAL EQUIPMENT (GRE)

The City of San Diego Food Establishment Wastewater Ordinance requires that GRE (Grease Traps and Interceptors) "be maintained in efficient operating conditions by periodic removal of the accumulated grease" and solid food waste. The cleaning interval varies with the amount of food preparation/clean-up activities and with the facility's housekeeping procedures. This interval must be determined by each facility but will be mandated by the City when maintenance is found to be unsatisfactory.

METHODS

Two maintenance methods are approved by the City of San Diego:

1. **MANUAL REMOVAL OF GREASE.** This consists of skimming out accumulated grease and oil and removing solids that have settled at the bottom. **None of the removed material can be disposed of in the sewer or storm drain system.** Collected material can be put in the grease recycling barrel, in a barrel specifically designated to hold grease trap waste or in the trash (not recommended). If applicable, you must ensure that your grease recycler or waste hauler accepts grease trap waste. Moreover, **material disposed of in the trash must be containerized and may not be over 50% liquid.**
2. **PUMPING.** You may hire a pumping service to empty your GRE. If you have a grease interceptor, pump all grease, oil and food matter from each chamber and sample box, including solids or sludge at the bottom of each chamber, specifically at the bottom of all standpipes. FEWD will at times require a complete pump out to facilitate inspection and flow testing.

BACTERIAL PRODUCTS may help to reduce cleaning frequency. However, high temperature, high or low pH level, sanitizers and other cleaning products render them ineffective. **This is not a substitute for methods 1 or 2.**

ENZYME PRODUCTS should not be used as they keep grease and oil suspended in water, which causes them to pass through your grease trap or interceptor. They may also contribute to the corrosion of your GRE.

IN ALL CASES, FACILITY OPERATORS ARE SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR PROPER GRE MAINTENANCE.

SUMMARY

GRE collects grease that would otherwise enter the sewer lines and cause blockages and overflows. Methods 1 & 2 are the best ways of disposing of this grease. **Bacteria may reduce the frequency of, but will not eliminate the need for, manual cleaning or pumping.**

A record of the dates, methods and identity of persons/company cleaning GRE must be kept at the facility and be available for review at any time. During facility inspections, all GRE will be required to be opened and will be examined for proper maintenance.