

TOWN OF SEABROOK, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Sewer Department, Industrial Pretreatment Program

SUBJECT: Answers to Common Questions About Waste from Grease Interceptors, Grit Traps, and Oil Separators

Purpose

This publication is intended for generators of waste from grease interceptors & traps, grit traps, and oil separators. If you generate any of these types of waste, it is important for you to know and comply with regulations because you are responsible for managing the waste - from the time it is generated, transported, and processed, to the time of final disposal.

Grease Interceptor & Grease Trap Waste

What is the difference between a grease “trap” and a grease “interceptor”?

The town of Seabrook identifies devices with rated flows of 50 gallons per minute or less as “Grease Traps”. Grease traps are installed indoors, generally near to or under a sink that they drain.

Devices with rated flows greater than 50 gallons per minute are referred to as “Grease Interceptors”. Grease interceptors are installed underground outside of the building and have capacities of 750 gallons or more.

Am I required to have a grease trap or interceptor?

A grease trap or interceptor is required for any facility, including municipal, state and federal entities, whose business activity is the source of cooking grease or oil in its wastewater - such as restaurants, cafeterias, and food processing plants - and which is located within the Town of Seabrook. The town’s Municipal Sewer System Ordinance does not allow discharge of grease into the sewer because it can block the sewer lines.

Who regulates my grease trap or interceptor?

Grease traps and interceptors are regulated by the Town of Seabrook through the Sewer Department’s Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program. Each unit must be registered with the town, generally at the time a wastewater discharge permit is issued. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services regulates the pumping (evacuation), transportation, and disposal of all grease interceptor waste.

What standards does my grease trap or interceptor have to meet?

Grease traps must meet specific standards for design, sizing and installation. These include the International Plumbing Code, PDI G101, ASME A 112.14.3 and, where applicable, ASME A 112.14.3. This information is available from the Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Office.

For grease interceptors, the designs of both the device and the installation must be signed & sealed by a professional engineer (P.E.) licensed by the State of New Hampshire and must be approved by the Sewer Superintendent. Grease interceptors must have two or three two chambers, a downstream sampling manhole, and a rated retention time of at least 20 minutes at maximum flow.

Both grease traps and grease interceptors must be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

Who can pump my grease interceptor?

Although indoor grease traps are generally cleaned by the user, only transporters who are registered with the Town of Seabrook and licensed by the State of New Hampshire can legally pump and transport waste from grease interceptors. You may call the Seabrook Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Office for a list of registered transporters.

May I dispose of the waste from my own grease trap or interceptor?

Waste grease and settled solids taken from a grease trap may be placed into a watertight container and discarded as solid waste (e.g., dumpster). On the other hand, you must be registered with the Town of Seabrook as a transporter and meet all of the reporting requirements to haul waste from a grease interceptor. All *liquid* wastes - including grease interceptor, grit trap, and oil separator wastes - must be transported by registered haulers. The transportation of "yellow grease" from fryers that will be taken to a renderer must be done in compliance with health department requirements.

Grit Trap Waste

Am I required to have a grit trap?

Grit traps are required for all permanent car washes, clam houses, and other types of businesses that generate sand or grit. Grit cannot be discharged into the sewer because it blocks the lines and damages the town's pumps.

Who regulates my grit trap?

Grit traps are regulated by the Seabrook Sewer Department through its Industrial Pretreatment Program. Each unit must be registered with the town, generally at the time a wastewater discharge permit is issued.

What standards does my grit trap have to meet?

Grit traps need to be suitably sized to prevent sand and grit from entering the sewer system, and they must meet the standards of the International Plumbing Code for design, sizing and installation. This information is available from the Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Office.

Who can pump my grit trap?

Only transporters who are registered with the Town of Seabrook can legally pump and transport grit trap waste. You can call the Seabrook Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Office for a list of registered transporters.

May I dispose of the waste from my own grit trap?

Grit trap waste from a car wash may be dried on site and properly disposed of in accordance with State of New Hampshire regulations for the disposal of solid waste. You may *not allow* any water from the drying bed to escape into the surrounding area or storm drains.

Because grit trap waste may be contaminated with benzene, lead, total petroleum hydrocarbons, and other harmful materials, tests are normally required before a landfill will accept these wastes. Not all landfills will accept grit wastes, so it is prudent to check first.

Oil Separator Waste

Am I required to have an oil separator?

Oil separators (sometimes called oil/water separators) are required for auto repair garages, car washing facilities with engine or undercarriage cleaning capability, factories where oily or flammable liquid wastes are produced, and companies involved in certain other types of activities. Petroleum hydrocarbons cannot be discharged into the sewer because they can interfere with the wastewater treatment process.

Who regulates my oil separator?

Oil separators are regulated by the Seabrook Sewer Department through its Industrial Pretreatment Program. Each unit must be registered with the town, generally at the time a wastewater discharge permit is issued. The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services regulates the pumping (evacuation), transportation, and disposal of waste from oil separators only if it can be classified as hazardous waste or as "Waste Oil for Recycle".

What standards does my oil separator have to meet?

Oil separators must meet the standards of the International Plumbing Code for design, sizing and installation. This information is available from the Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Office.

Who can pump my oil separator?

Only transporters who are registered with the Town of Seabrook can legally pump and transport waste from an oil separator. You can call the Seabrook Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Office for a list of registered transporters.

May I dispose of the waste from my own oil separator?

Waste from oil separators, if skimmed off, can be tested to see if it can be managed as "Used Oil for Recycle". If so, it can be managed, collected, and recycled by a State of New Hampshire registered Used Oil Marketer. Otherwise, it must be handled by a septage hauler. Septage haulers are regulated by the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, must be registered with the Town of Seabrook as a transporter, and must meet all of the reporting requirements to haul waste from a grease interceptor. All *liquid* wastes - including grease interceptor, grit trap, and oil separator wastes - must be transported by registered haulers.

General Information

What information is required on a registered transporter's trip ticket?

The Town of Seabrook requires the following information to be on a transporter's trip ticket - a paper trail on the waste that is also called a *manifest*.

General Information

- your name, address, and phone number;
- type of waste generated (for example, grease trap or oil separator);
- device (e.g., interceptor) capacity and the type and amount of waste collected;
- date of service; and
- your signature verifying the information and approving the disposal site to be used.

Transporter Information

- transporter's name, address, and phone number;
- transporter's Town of Seabrook registration number;
- transporters State permit number (if required);
- type of waste generated (for example, grease trap or oil separator);
- gallons transported; and
- driver's name and signature.

Disposal Site Information

- disposal site's name and permit or registration number;
- disposal site's physical address;
- date and amount of waste received; and
- site representative's name and signature.

How do I know that my grease or grit trap waste or oil separator waste is going to an authorized site?

As a generator, you are responsible for disposal of the waste you generate at your facility. Contact the disposal site facility listed on the returned copy of the trip ticket to verify disposal site authorization and receipt of waste.

You also have the option of choosing the disposal site for your wastes. Check with registered transporters and choose one who will use the disposal facility that you wish.

Can a transporter pump my grease interceptor and oil separator in the same load?

Transporters cannot mix wastes with different characteristics, except in very rare cases. Most facilities are not authorized to store, process, or dispose of these mixed wastes either. If you plan to recycle grease trap or oil separator wastes, they certainly cannot be mixed with other wastes. Grease trap waste that is designated for recycling is called *brown grease*.

Please note that town regulations do not apply to used cooking oils from fryers and similar sources that do not come from grease traps or interceptors. This is called *yellow grease*, and is rendered and recycled. It is governed by health department rules. Yellow grease must be stored in a special container for pickup by the recycler - it cannot come from a grease trap or interceptor, because then it would be brown grease.

If a registered transporter hauls my grease grit or oil separator waste, am I still responsible for the proper disposal of the waste?

Yes. If your waste is illegally dumped, you are considered at fault, and you could face enforcement proceedings. Remember, as a generator you must ensure that your waste is disposed of at a registered disposal site. The generator is always liable for any cleanup costs linked to an improper disposal site. In addition, an early cleanup will limit the spread of contamination and decrease the costs for remediation.

Tips for Controlling Your Liability

- Carefully select a registered transporter
- Verify the information on the final trip ticket: receipt of proper amount, disposal at the correct facility, signature of disposal site employee.
- Promptly clean up any waste spilled.
- Report problems to the Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program Office as soon as possible.

What does it cost to have my interceptor, trap, or separator pumped?

Costs vary, depending on such factors as choice of transporter, distance to the disposal site, frequency of pumping, volume pumped, disposal site charges, and

testing requirements. Keep in mind that the Town of Seabrook has no jurisdiction over the prices. They are the transporter's decision.

How often should I have my interceptor, trap, or separator pumped?

Frequency of pumping depends on the size of the device and the amount of waste you generate. The Town of Seabrook enforces "the 25% rule" for grease interceptors (and grease traps, too). This means that the town considers an interceptor or trap to be "full" when the depth of the settled solids on the bottom PLUS the thickness of the floatable grease on top is equal to 25% of the total wetted depth of the device as measured at any inspection port.

Pumping frequencies for grit traps and oil separators depend on site specific variables and are established as part of the permitting process.

What happens if my waste is disposed of improperly?

The following problems may be created:

- foul (potential nuisance) odors;
- breeding grounds for flies and vermin;
- salmonella and botulism poisoning;
- exposure to infectious diseases for those who come in contact with these wastes;
- soil contamination;
- water contamination from seepage into well fields, or when waste is dumped into creeks and other bodies of water;
- clogged sewer lines; and
- loss of aquatic life.

Remember, as the generator **you are ultimately liable for improper disposal.**