



Industrial Pretreatment Program
Wastewater Treatment Plant
501 East 1st Avenue
Longmont, CO 80501

Pollution Prevention

CITY OF LONGMONT INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT

Fat, Oil & Grease Reduction In the Food Service Industry



**For the Service Area of the
City of Longmont
Wastewater Treatment
Plant**

**POLLUTION
PREVENTION**

The Grease Problem

Section 14.08.310 of the Municipal Code prohibits sewer discharges that cause obstructions or interference with sewage treatment. When businesses disregard City regulations and improperly dispose of grease down drains, sewer lines become clogged resulting in sewage backups into homes, businesses and storm sewers.

The City Wastewater Treatment System includes 250 miles of sewers and a treatment plant that processes 8.5 million gallons of sewage per day. Sewer blockages due to grease obstructions are a costly problem for our City.

In order to reduce grease blockages, the City must monitor and clean out all sewer lines. Grease that accumulates at the treatment plant must be collected so that it doesn't damage equipment or interfere with processes. These activities cost the residents of the City of Longmont over \$37,000.00/year.

The food industry is the largest single contributor of grease to our sewers.

Things You Can Do to Reduce Grease Entering Our Sewer

- ⇒ Wipe off greasy pots and utensils instead of hosing off in a sink.
- ⇒ Do not dispose of salad dressing, cream or butter to drain. Collect them in a grease container for recycling/rendering.
- ⇒ Keep grease containers covered and away from drains.
- ⇒ Stop grease spills from entering floor drains. Wipe them up.
- ⇒ Install Grease Interceptors.
- ⇒ Inspect and clean interceptors on a regular basis.
- ⇒ Do not use hot water or emulsifiers. They cause the grease to congeal in the sewer lines.
- ⇒ Educate your employees on these easy tips.

Grease Interceptors

Grease interceptors separate grease and oils from wastewater.

Fats, oils and greases are lighter than water and float on the surface. The greasy wastewater enters the interceptor and passes over a series of separator baffles. Grease and solids are caught inside of the interceptor and the clear wastewater flows through to the sewer.

The grease is then pumped from the interceptor by a qualified contractor. Grease can be recycled by a rendering company.

It is important that grease interceptors are checked daily and cleaned out regularly. Keep documentation as proof that maintenance is being performed.

Interceptors Required For...

Section 14.08.415 of the City Municipal Code requires grease interceptor installation for any commercial user that discharges fat, oil or grease. These include:

- All commercial establishments engaged in the preparation and sale of food-stuffs to the general public. Examples: restaurants, cafes, lunch counters, cafeterias, bars, kitchens in hotels, hospitals & factories;
- Any establishment operating a commercial garbage grinder;
- Dairies and slaughterhouses.

Grease interceptors shall be kept in continuous operation at all times.

Grease interceptors are not usually required for private residences or dwellings.

Design & Sizing Requirements

Interceptors should be installed so that it is easily accessible at all times for maintenance and inspections. Interceptors should never be located where food is prepared.

For more information on sizing, contact the Industrial Pretreatment Program at 303-651-8667.

Required Maintenance

The Municipal Code (14.08.416) requires that the interceptors be adequately maintained at the owners expense. It is recommended that traps be inspected daily and clean when at 60% capacity.

Record all maintenance performed and keep all records (including cleaning manifests) on site and available for City inspection.

Failure to maintain interceptors results in stiff civil penalties. The City will perform random inspections annually. It is essential that all maintenance is documented.

If the failure to maintain causes a sewer blockage, requires excessive maintenance of sewer lines or inhibits the workings of the treatment plant, the cost of maintenance (labor, equipment and materials) will be charged to the violator.

Repeat violators will be subjected to escalating enforcement.

REMEMBER

It is unlawful to discharge any substance to the sewer that may cause obstructions, interfere with the operation of the wastewater system, or inhibit the operation or performance of the treatment plant (Ordinance section 14.08.310).

PLEASE REDUCE,

PLEASE REUSE,

PLEASE RECYCLE.

Pollution Prevention Information

For more information about pollution prevention ideas for the food industry, contact:

**Partners for A Clean Environment
PACE
303-786-PACE**



The Municipal Code and more information about Pollution Prevention is available online at:

www.ci.longmont.co.us

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