

# GRSD Sewer Authority Grease Control Policy

## Purpose

It is the duty and responsibility of the local units to prevent the excessive introduction of grease into the sewer system and the wastewater treatment plant. This policy is designed to implement and enforce the grease discharge rules adopted by local ordinances.

The intent of this policy is to ensure compliance with the GRSD Sewer Authority's Pretreatment Program, as contained in the sewer system ordinances; the rules and regulations of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality; and to protect the GRSD Sewer Authority's infrastructure as it relates to the sanitary sewer collection and treatment system.

The accumulation of grease within the sewer lines increase the potential to cause sewer blockages, which in turn can cause overflows, which potentially degrade the quality of local surface waters. Blockages may also cause sewer to back-up into business establishments, or homes, and can cause extensive damage. Grease can be discharged to the sewer system from several sources, including Food Service Establishments. In order to reduce sewer blockages, Food Service Establishments in the GRSD Sewer Authority's area that discharge wastewater that contains grease must install and maintain a grease trap or interceptor. These establishments include any institutional food service or business that serves food or is involved in food preparation services.

The GRSD Sewer Authority reserves the right to make determinations of grease interceptor adequacy and need, based on review of all relevant information regarding grease interceptor performance, maintenance, and facility site and building plan review to require repairs to, modification, or replacement of such interceptors or traps.

## Design, Installation and Maintenance of Grease Interceptors

All new grease interceptors shall be designed and constructed in accordance with grease trap specifications approved by the GRSD Sewer Authority Manager. A large 1000 gallon vault style interceptor is the minimum District standard unless otherwise approved by the manager prior to construction. All grease interceptor plans and specifications shall be submitted and approved by the Authority prior to installation.

All grease interceptors shall be installed by an approved contractor and maintained by the User at the User's expense so as to be in continuously effective operation. Maintenance shall include the complete removal of all contents, including floatable materials, wastewater, sludge, and solids.

The User shall be responsible for the proper removal and lawful disposal of the grease interceptor waste. All waste removed from each grease interceptor should be disposed of at a facility permitted by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality Solid Waste Management Division to receive such waste. No grease interceptor waste shall be discharged directly to the wastewater collection system or wastewater treatment facilities.

The local unit of government or the designated inspector may conduct inspections of every Food Service Establishment connected to the sewer collection system as it deems necessary.

### **Existing Food Establishments**

While existing restaurants and food service establishments are allowed to use interior or the smaller type of exterior grease trap that was legal at the time of their construction as long as they do not contribute grease to the sanitary sewer lines, it is recommended that they "upgrade" to the current specifications. Problems with grease clogging sewer lines in their vicinity or discovery, upon inspection, of improperly maintained grease traps will result in a mandate to install the required type of grease interceptor.

Failure for food establishments to abide by local ordinances will result in fines up to \$1000.00 per day. The food establishment owner may be responsible for additional costs to clean and clear the sewer line and possibly for any costs for damages done to adjoining properties in addition to the ordinance fines.