

VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM INTERCEPTOR FACT SHEET



WHAT IS FOG?

FOG is a shorthand way of saying Fats, Oils, and Grease

WHAT IS A GREASE TRAP?

A grease trap is a device that is installed inside the building or under the sink to separate and retain grease and solid materials from the waste stream while allowing the balance of the liquid waste to discharge to the wastewater collection system by gravity. Baffles in the grease trap retain the wastewater long enough for the grease to congeal and rise to the surface. Traps have a removable lid on the top surface to facilitate inspection and cleaning.

WHAT IS A GREASE INTERCEPTOR?

The purpose of a grease interceptor is to catch and collect fats, oils, grease, and solids (FOGS) from commercial and restaurant kitchens. As wastewater flows through a kitchen's plumbing (3-compartment sinks, prep sinks, mop sinks, dishwashers, floor drains, etc.) into a grease interceptor, the FOGS are intercepted or filtered out into a large underground holding tank. Once the grease interceptor reaches maximum capacity, a certified grease trap cleaning company will need to be called to service the grease interceptor.

WHY DO I HAVE A GREASE TRAP/GREASE INTERCEPTOR WHEN I DON'T "FRY" ANYTHING OR COOK WITH GREASE?

The reason you need a grease trap or grease interceptor is because of the clean-up, not the cooking. When you wash your cooking equipment, hood, pots, pans, plates, dishes, and utensils you are washing fats, oils, and grease (not to mention solids) in the building drainage system. It's the fats, oils, grease, and solids (foodstuffs) that damage plumbing systems and the municipal sewer system.

AN IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED GREASE TRAP CAN AFFECT YOUR BUSINESS'S PLUMBING AND THE PUBLIC SANITARY AND SEWER SYSTEMS. FOG THAT ESCAPES AN IMPROPERLY MAINTAINED GREASE TRAP MAY RESULT IN:

- Raw sewage overflow into the environment.
- Raw sewage backing up into your business.
- Expensive cleanup, repair, and replacement of damaged property.
- High operating and maintenance costs.
- Unpleasant odors.

PLEASE HELP THE VILLAGE OF EPHRAIM MAINTAIN THE SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM AND TREATMENT PLANT BY PROPERLY CLEANING, MAINTAINING, AND INSPECTING YOUR GREASE TRAP/GREASE INTERCEPTOR TO PREVENT THE DISCHARGE OF EXCESSIVE AMOUNTS OF FOG. INSPECTION FORMS ARE DUE ANNUALLY BY JUNE 1 PER THE EPHRAIM CODE OF ORDINANCES.