



City of Scottsdale Water Resources  
Water Quality Section – Pretreatment Program  
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To: Food Service Establishment Owner/Operator  
Subject: Use of Additives in Grease Interceptors and Sewers

The discharge of grease from commercial Food Service Establishments (FSEs) is prohibited. The purpose of this letter is to clarify the City's position regarding the use of biological additives, microbes, enzymes, surfactants, emulsifiers, saponifiable substances or other similar chemicals in FSEs sewer lines, grease traps or interceptors.

The City does not impose a specific discharge local limit for Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) but instead has established mandatory industry specific Best Management Practices (BMPs). The current BMPs being implemented by the City Pretreatment inspection staff requires suitable and adequate FOG abatement at the source, typically in the form of large outside grease interceptors. Under limited circumstances, point source FOG abatement in the form of an under-counter hydro-mechanical grease trap or an electro-mechanical automatic self cleaning alternative grease removal device is permitted.

The BMPs require that FOG abatement equipment shall be inspected, cleaned regularly, and maintained in proper operating conditions by the user and at the user's expense. Generally, for most full service FSE operations, this equates to a cleaning event for an outside grease interceptor of at least once every ninety (90) days. In an effort to curb costs and lessen the burden of frequent interceptor cleaning and waste disposal, some FSEs have considered the use of biological or other type treatment additives.

Many vendors offer a variety of products that profess to consume, eliminate or treat FOG and therefore reduce maintenance frequency and costs. Please be advised, additives will not eliminate the need for routine interceptor inspection and maintenance cleaning. The direct introduction of treatment additives, biological or otherwise, to a point source grease trap or grease interceptor device is prohibited.

The use of these products to maintain floor drain traps and sewer lines and control odors is acceptable provided it does not interfere with the normal operation of the interceptor or cause pass through of FOG to the City sewer. If a City Pretreatment inspector discovers FOG laden sewer lines downstream from a commercial FSE or evidence of interference with the normal operation and established function of a grease interceptor/trap, enforcement and remedial action will result regardless of the type or brand of additive in use or the claims of its vendor.

Please direct questions or comments regarding additive use or local sewer use regulations to the City's Pretreatment staff at the contacts listed above.

Sincerely,

Zoli Dregely, Pretreatment Coordinator  
Water Quality Section