

A FACT SHEET FOR

Oil & Grease Definitions

GREASE GOBLIN: Little bad guy who likes to grow in your pipes by feeding off the oil and grease washed into sinks and drains. Prevent the Grease Goblin from loitering in your pipes by practicing dry clean-up of kitchen surfaces, collecting waste oil and grease for rendering, and properly maintaining your grease interceptor.



CHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (COD): A measure of the oxygen reducing capabilities of wastewater due to chemical reactions. Wastewater with inorganic material (such as chemicals from household cleaners and detergents) can cause chemical reactions that absorb oxygen. If large quantities of these chemicals enter wastewater, chemical reactions occur which consume large amounts of oxygen. If the oxygen level in the water drops too much, fish and other aquatic life may not survive. POTWs can only treat small quantities of COD in wastewater. If COD levels become too high, the wastewater may pass through the POTW only partially treated thus endangering aquatic life in water.

BIOLOGICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD): A measurement that relates to how much oxygen is in the water to support aquatic life due to biological activity. Wastewater with organic material (food particles, oil, and grease) serves as food for aquatic microorganisms. As these microorganisms feed on the organic material their numbers increase and they consume larger amounts of oxygen. If the oxygen level in the water drop too much, fish and other aquatic life may not survive. POTWs can only treat high BOD wastewater to a certain concentration. If BOD levels become too high, the wastewater may pass through the POTW only partially treated thus endangering aquatic life in water.

FOOD RENDERER: An established organization that will pick-up the collected oil and grease from the interceptor and other accumulation locations at little or no charge. The material will then be used in reprocessing for animal feed, tallow, and soap production and in composting.

FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM: A voluntary program wherein food service providers donate edible food materials to missions, homeless shelters, etc., for consumption by the less fortunate. Liability in North Carolina is protected by both national and State Good Samaritan Laws.



GARBAGE FEEDERS: Garbage feeders are typically animal farmers that are licensed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to collect food and beverage scraps that are cooked and fed to their livestock.

GREASE: Grease includes the accumulation of oils, fats, cellulose, starch, proteins, and wax.

LOCAL LIMIT: A maximum pollutant level placed on wastewater discharged to the City or Town sewer. These local limits are listed in the Sewer Use Ordinance or a permit issued directly to the source that are required to meet all local limits. Cities and Towns may impose special local limits on food providers for pollutants such as oil and grease, BOD, and TSS.

OIL: Any one or a combination of mineral, vegetable, and synthetic substances and animal and vegetable fats that are used in a variety of processes.

OIL/WATER SEPARATOR: An automatic or manual device that separates and retains oils and other light liquids intended for proper disposal, rendering, and recycling.

PRETREATMENT COORDINATOR: A designated City or Town employee who oversees discharges to the City POTW. Generally pretreatment coordinator will be involved in implementing or operating the City or Town oil and grease program.

PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTW): A Town or City owned wastewater treatment facility. Wastewater treatment plants are primarily designed to remove BOD and TSS from household, commercial (including food service establishments), and industrial wastewaters discharged by facilities in a City.

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW (SSO): Overflow of a City or Town sewer often due to a blockage in a line. The Division of Water Quality estimates that up to 80% of SSOs are caused by oil and grease blockages. Sanitary sewer overflows often result in the release of many thousands of gallons of untreated wastewater. A City or Town will be fined and be subject to many other legal requirements by the State of North Carolina if a small quantity of wastewater from an overflow reaches a stream or river.

SEWER USE ORDINANCE (SUO): A Town or City legal document stating the requirements of all facilities (including restaurants) discharging to the local POTW. The document provides legal authority to the City or Town to implement local limits on wastewater discharges that protect the POTW, POTW workers, public health, and surface waters of North Carolina.

TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS): The quantity of solid particles contained in wastewater. Suspended solids from food establishments are a cause for concern for two reasons. Suspended solids are often food particles, which are high in BOD. They may also contribute to blockages in sewer lines or other equipment required to handle the City or Town wastewater e.g. pump stations.