



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Wastewater Management Program Notice to Users: Proper Maintenance of Fats, Oils, and Grease Interceptors

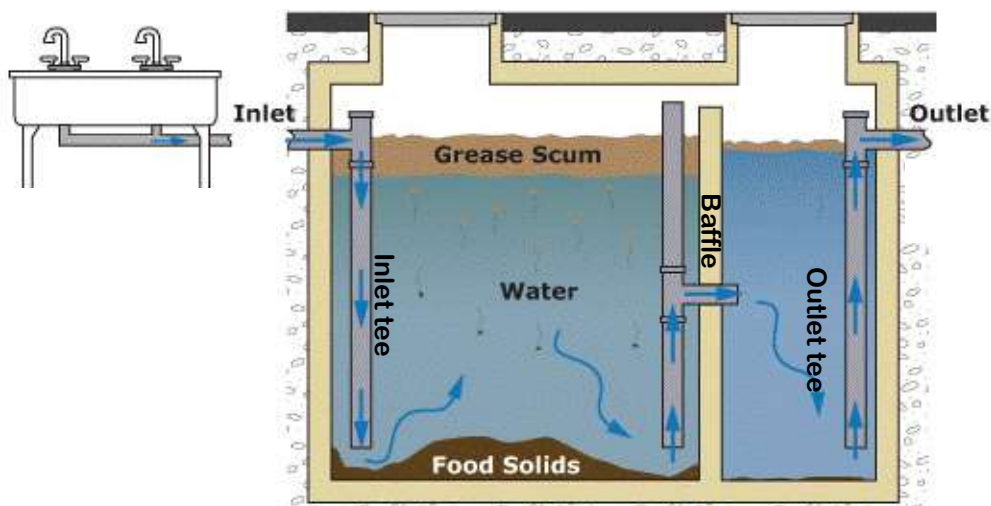
Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) investigates problem discharges, including discharges of fats, oils, and grease (FOG) and corrosive wastewater discharges to the County-owned sewer system. FOG can cause sewer blockages, backups and overflows. Corrosive wastewater damages sewers. These conditions can interrupt sewer service, endanger public health, and require expensive repairs both on privately-owned and publicly owned sewerage systems.

Grease interceptors are devices that capture FOG and debris from kitchen wastewater as shown in the diagram below. Improperly maintained grease interceptors are common sources of FOG and corrosive wastewater. If not frequently removed from interceptors, FOG will contribute to the growth of microbes that break down the FOG and debris and release acids. These acids mix with wastewater leaving interceptors, making the wastewater corrosive to the County's sewers. Excess FOG or debris can also pass through interceptors and accumulate in sewers. Interceptors require frequent emptying by pump and haul contractors to prevent these harmful discharges.

DPWES administers Fairfax County Code Chapter 67.1 to ensure protection of the County's wastewater systems. The code prohibits discharge of acidic wastewater with pH less than 5.0 (67.1-2-1(b)(2)). Grease interceptors must be cleaned as needed (67.1-3-2). Cleaning records must be maintained for three years (67.1-3-2(c)) and must be available for County review upon request (67.1-3-3). If grease interceptors are not properly maintained, the County may take enforcement actions to assure compliance (67.1-8). The Fairfax County Code is available online at: http://library.municode.com/va/fairfax_county/.

Sewer users with grease interceptors must maintain their interceptor and records in accordance with County Code. If you have questions or need guidance, contact DPWES at (703) 550-9740 x 252 or IndustrialWaste@fairfaxcounty.gov.

A TYPICAL GREASE INTERCEPTOR



FAIRFAX COUNTY
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT



Quality of Water – Quality of Life

Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Wastewater Planning & Monitoring Division, Industrial Waste Section

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