

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COLUMBUS' NEW FOG CONTROL PROGRAM

Why is Columbus changing the plumbing code to require outside interceptors (where practical) in lieu of allowing PDI G101 certified grease traps in all applications?

Actually, the plumbing code is not being changed. The Division of Sewerage and Drainage is adding this requirement to the Sewer Use Ordinance. Columbus plumbing regulations previously contained a similar requirement and the Franklin County Code currently contains a similar requirement. The requirement is being added to the Sewer Use Ordinance because of concerns that PDI G101 certified grease traps are often not properly maintained. The performance standards for PDI G101 certified grease traps are based on removal rates of a lard-and-water mixture. The PDI G101 certification process does not address removal rates for other types of fats, oils, and grease or the presence of cleaning agents (emulsifiers). Additionally, larger outside interceptors allow for longer detention times which may help with removal rates. Larger interceptors also require less frequent maintenance.

Who will be required to install outside interceptors?

Existing facilities will not be affected unless they remodel. Where feasible, new construction and kitchen remodels will be required to install an outside interceptor.

What is the cost for an outside interceptor?

The cost for a typical interceptor ranges from \$535 for a 200 gallon model to \$1230 for a 2,000 gallon model. The size depends on the operational needs of the business. Installation cost is dependent upon the specific site conditions but is typically between \$500 and \$800, which is in addition to the cost of the interceptor.

Are there guidance materials available for preparing my BMP?

The Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Section (IWPS) provides a standardized BMP form and grease trap/interceptor cleaning log with detailed instructions for preparation. You are not required to use the standardized format but using it will insure all required components are addressed. Additionally, IWPS can provide applicable samples from similar businesses that have been successful for your review, upon request. DOSD personnel are also available to answer questions.

Do I need to mail my BMP to DOSD?

No. It must be developed, put into regular practice and available for inspection upon request by the Columbus Division of Sewerage and Drainage or the Columbus Health Department.

What happens if I do not prepare or maintain my BMP or grease trap/interceptor cleaning log?

You will be in violation of the City's Sewer Use Ordinance and the IWPS staff will take the necessary enforcement actions to insure compliance.

Why are these changes required?

Fats, oils, and grease reduce the flow capacity of the sewers and cause blockages which can result in sewer overflows and back-ups into homes and businesses. The costs and negative environmental effects of not preventing the blockages are significant.

What is the benefit for my business in participating in this program?

Beyond being in compliance with local ordinances and preventing the associated charge of \$1500 or more for cost recovery, a good BMP should help prevent your sewer service from being interrupted by grease blockages downstream of the trap or interceptor. Proper, frequent cleaning of grease traps and interceptors will also reduce odors, make cleaning easier, and save your business unnecessary plumbing service calls.