

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Control Program



INTRODUCTION

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG), have become a significant problem for wastewater collection and treatment systems. FOG can coat, congeal, and accumulate in collection system pipes, pumps, and other components leading to significant maintenance costs. Therefore, the Town of Plymouth has updated its Sewer Use Rules & Regulations and the Board of Health Regulations accordingly to regulate FOG discharge and to establish minimum pretreatment requirements.

BOARD OF HEALTH RULES & REGULATIONS OVERVIEW

A portion of the requirements of the regulations are listed below:

- Grease traps shall be required at all food preparation areas, restaurants, kitchens, hospitals, bars, cafeterias, clubs, and all other facilities found to discharge FOG.
- All grease traps shall be of a type, design, and capacity specified by the Building Code.
- All grease traps shall be readily and easily accessible for user cleaning and Town inspection.
- All grease traps shall be cleaned by a licensed septage hauler when the level of grease reaches 25% of the effective depth of the trap, or every month, whichever is sooner.
- The user shall maintain a written record of grease trap maintenance for three (2) years and such records shall be available for inspection by the Town at all times.
- Best management practices (BMPs) in food preparation and cleanup are expected to be employed.

The full rules and regulations can be found on the Plymouth website at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3724/Fats-Oils-Grease-Regulations-2023-PDF>

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Best management practices (BMPs) are a series of activities that effectively reduce the amount of waste generated in a business. In the case of FOG control, BMPs include:

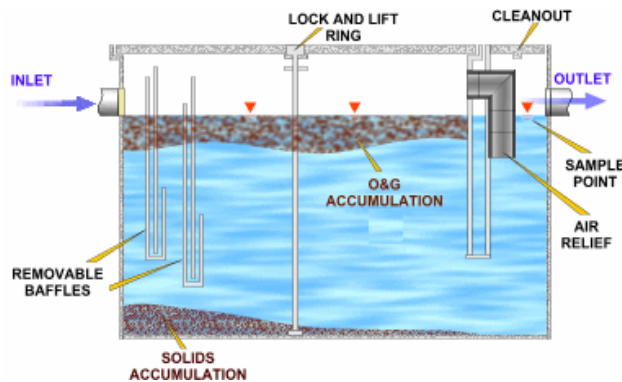
- **DO** use less oil and liquid oil instead of solid grease or lard
- **DO** dry wipe all dishes, pots, and pans before putting them in the dishwasher
- **DO** collect and dispose used oil through a licensed grease hauler. See reverse side for listing of grease haulers
- **DO** capture the oil accumulated in ventilation and exhaust hoods
- **DO** clean grease on a regular basis
- **DO** keep grease traps well maintained and properly operating.
- **DON'T** dump excess oil or grease down the drain.
- **DON'T** dispose of waste oil or paint thinner into the sewer.

Plymouth Department of Public Works - Sewer Division & Plymouth Public Health Division

GREASE TRAPS

A grease trap (also known as a grease interceptor) is a tank that is installed on the sewer/drain line. These grease traps prevent grease from entering into the wastewater collection system and thus reduce the amount of maintenance due to FOG. Baffles are placed within the tank to increase the retention time of the water in order to allow the oils and grease to congeal and rise to the surface. The grease can then be removed and disposed of properly.

Some grease traps are located outside the building in the ground and serve the entire kitchen. The following schematic displays a typical outside grease trap.



Source: <http://www.oracwa.org/Pages/maintenance.htm>

TOWN OF PLYMOUTH FATS, OILS, AND GREASE PROGRAM GUIDANCE

For the full FOG program guidance, including a list of septage and grease haulers, visit the Board of Health's Rules, Regulations, & Guidance page on the Plymouth website at <https://www.plymouth-ma.gov/532/Rules-Regulations-Guidelines> or use the QR code to the right.



RIGHT OF ENTRY FOR INSPECTION & SAMPLING

Authorized agents of the Town are permitted to enter all properties for the purpose of inspection, observation, measurement, sampling, testing, and determining whether the user is complying with all requirements of the Sewer Use Rules & Regulations and Board of Health Fats, Oils, and Grease Regulations.

Users shall allow authorized representatives of the Town full access to all parts of the premises for the purpose of inspection, photographing, video recording, sampling, records examination, and the performance of any additional duties. A user may be required to install monitoring equipment as determined by the Department of Public Works and/or Health Division.

PROGRAM FEES AND WAIVERS

Fees are enforced per Board of Health Regulations. Waivers and variances can be requested for assessment by the Board of Health and Sewer Department.