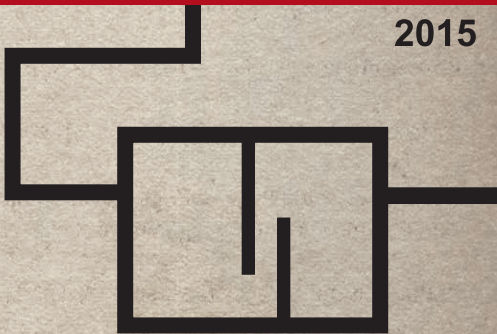


# Grease Interceptors

A Comprehensive Guide

2015



Wastewater  
And  
Treatment  
Education  
Roundtable

# Grease Interceptors

## What problems are caused by grease?

- Sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs)
- Expensive cleanup and repair/ replacement of damaged property
- Potential contact with microorganisms that cause illness
- Higher operation and maintenance costs
- Rancid or noxious odors



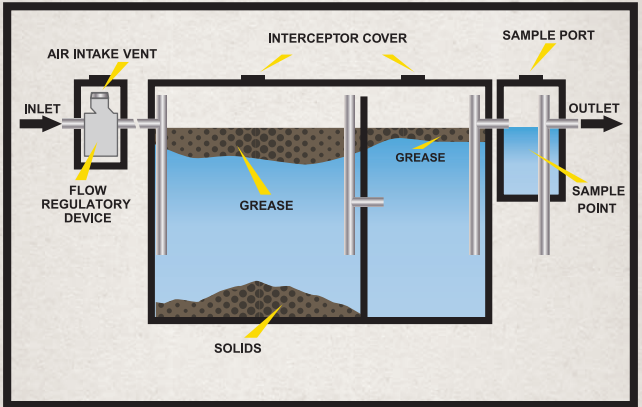
## Grease Interceptors

All food service establishments (FSEs) with food preparation must have a grease interceptor or grease trap. If you hold a food establishment permit from the city, you are an FSE and are required by city code to verify whether a grease interceptor must be installed. Grease interceptors must be sized in accordance with your city's ordinances.

What is a grease interceptor? It's a pretreatment device that intercepts grease, food solids, and oils discharged from an FSE, trapping them before they can enter the sanitary sewer.

# How a Grease Interceptor Works

A grease interceptor slows down the flow of hot, greasy water. As the water cools, the oil and grease separates and floats to the top of the interceptor. Solids accumulate at the bottom.



# Maintaining and Inspecting Your Interceptor

Grease interceptors must be maintained and inspected regularly.

Most cities require that you have a permitted hauler pump out your grease interceptor after a set length of time, typically between 3 to 6 months. However, this is only the minimum requirement. It does not guarantee that your grease interceptor will function properly for that length of time and thus prevent a grease overflow.

## The 25% Rule

A good general rule, and one required by many cities, is the 25% rule. This means having your grease interceptor pumped out when it becomes 25% full of solids and grease.

### Example



Total FOG on top of interceptor = 0.5 ft.

Total solids at bottom of interceptor = 1.0 ft.

Total depth of interceptor contents = 4.0 ft.

Percentage of FOG + solids:

$$\frac{(\text{FOG} + \text{Solids})}{\text{Depth of interceptor contents}} = \frac{(0.5 \text{ ft.} + 1.0 \text{ ft.})}{4.0 \text{ ft.}} = 37.5\%$$


**Does this example meet the 25% rule?**

**Answer:** No, the 25% rule has been exceeded and the FSE needs to increase its pump out frequency.

FOG = fats, oils, and grease

## Best Management Practices

- 👍 Post “no grease” signs on the front of dishwashers and above sinks.
- 👍 Scrape food into the trash.
- 👍 Avoid using the garbage disposal.
- 👍 Use sink strainers, and empty strainers into the trash.
- 👍 Wipe greasy utensils, dishes, and cookware with paper towels before washing.
- 👍 Recycle fry oil and cooking grease.
- 👍 Do not use additives unless you receive written authorization from the city. Bacterial and enzyme products will not decrease your pump out frequency.
- 👍 Ensure that floor drain covers are secured in order to prevent debris from entering the sanitary sewer lines.



Verify that your liquid waste hauler has a permit to operate in the city where your business is located. This information should be available on the city’s website.

FSEs are required to witness every grease interceptor cleanout and retain the manifests (pumping records provided by the liquid waste hauler) for content removal on site for the number of years specified by the city.

For more information, visit  
[www.ceasethegreasentx.com](http://www.ceasethegreasentx.com).

This brochure is a guide only. Please be sure to contact the city in which your business is located for the most current information and details.

# North Central Texas

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# Addison



### Permit Required?

Yes—plumbing or part of a building permit



### New Installation Inspection?

Yes



### Post-Installation Inspection?

No



### Minimum Size?

250 or 750 pounds, or as required by International Plumbing Code\*



### Pump Out Frequency:

Quarterly (recommended)



### Manifest Retention:

3 years (recommended)



### Sample Port Required?

No



### Variances?

No



### More Info:

Town of Addison Code of Ordinances—Chapter 46  
International Plumbing Code—2012 edition

\* 250-pound capacity for any establishment with ware washing needs. 750-pound (1,000-gallon) capacity for any FSE with seating for 50 or more, or as required by the 2012 International Plumbing Code (whichever is the larger capacity).



# Arlington



### **Permit Required?**

Yes—plumbing permit or commercial building permit



### **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes



### **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Yes—the City periodically arranges wastewater sample collections and inspections



### **Minimum Size?**

500 gallons; dependent upon the number of plumbing fixtures/drains



### **Pump Out Frequency:**

Minimum every 6 months



### **Manifest Retention:**

3 years



### **Sample Port Required?**

Yes—15-inch diameter minimum



### **Variances?**

No



### **More Info:**

[www.arlington-tx.gov/water/water-resources/#GIGT](http://www.arlington-tx.gov/water/water-resources/#GIGT)  
or  
(817) 459-5902



## Permit Required?

Yes—plumbing permit



## New Installation Inspection?

Yes



## Post-Installation Inspection?

No



## Minimum Size?

Depends on the type of business, food type, etc.



## Pump Out Frequency:

As needed



## Manifest Retention:

N/A



## Sample Port Required?

Yes



## Variances?

No



## Permit Required?

Yes



## New Installation Inspection?

Yes



## Post-Installation Inspection?

No



## Minimum Size?

No, but must be approved by the City



## Pump Out Frequency:

Minimum every 90 days



## Manifest Retention:

5 years



## Sample Port Required?

Yes



## Variances?


Yes



## More Info:


[www.burlesontx.com/index.aspx?nid=233](http://www.burlesontx.com/index.aspx?nid=233)

 **Permit Required?**  
Yes—plumbing permit

 **New Installation Inspection?**  
Yes


 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
The City inspects once per year

 **Minimum Size?**  
500 gallons, 1,000 gallons\*

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Minimum every 90 days

 **Manifest Retention:**  
3 years

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Yes


 **Variances?**  
Yes


 **More Info:**  
[www.cityofcarrollton.com/index.aspx?page=242](http://www.cityofcarrollton.com/index.aspx?page=242)


\* Grease interceptor sizing is based on menu, appliances, and types of cooking methods. Prepackaged food does not require a grease trap, light prep requires a minimum of a 500-gallon trap, and heavy prep requires at least a 1,000-gallon trap.





 **Permit Required?**  
Yes

 **New Installation Inspection?**  
Yes

 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
No

 **Minimum Size?**  
1,000 gallons

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Minimum every 90 days\*

 **Manifest Retention:**  
1 year

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Yes

 **Variances?**  
Yes\*\*

\* Unless a variance is granted for a smaller trap, which may require additional pumping.

\*\* If location will not accommodate a 1,000-gallon exterior trap, variances may be given to size, but increased pumping may be required.

# Coppell



## Permit Required?

Yes—plumbing permit



## New Installation Inspection?

Yes



## Post-Installation Inspection?

Yes



## Minimum Size?

Minimum of 1,000 gallons, or approval by Building Department



## Pump Out Frequency:

Regularly schedule pumping or cleaning that allows the proper operation of the trap; minimum of once every 12 months



## Manifest Retention:

5 years



## Sample Port Required?

Yes



## Variances?


Yes





## More Info:


<http://coppelltx.gov/>

 **Permit Required?**  
No

 **New Installation Inspection?**  
No


 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
Yes


 **Minimum Size?**  
No

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Minimum every 90 days

 **Manifest Retention:**  
3 years

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Yes

 **Variances?**  
No

 **More Info:**

[www.ceasethegrease.org](http://www.ceasethegrease.org)  
[http://dallascityhall.com/departments/waterutilities/pretreatmentprogram/Pages/liquid\\_waste.aspx](http://dallascityhall.com/departments/waterutilities/pretreatmentprogram/Pages/liquid_waste.aspx)

# Denton



**☰ Permit Required?**

Yes—plumbing permit from Building Inspection Department

**👁️ New Installation Inspection?**

Yes—new interceptor installation or replacement

**★ Post-Installation Inspection?**

Yes—Industrial Pretreatment inspects each interceptor in the city once every 3 years

**📄 Minimum Size?**

Minimum size varies depending on food preparation type, seating capacity, or minimum size established by the International Plumbing Code\*

**🔄 Pump Out Frequency:**

Once every 90 days; more frequently when 25% or more of the wetted height of the grease interceptor contains floating materials, sediment, oils, or grease

**🗑️ Manifest Retention:**

3 years

**⚙️ Sample Port Required?**

Yes

**🔗 Variances?**

Yes

***i* More Info:**

City of Denton Ordinance No. 2012-176  
Industrial Pretreatment: (940) 349-8610

\*Minimum Grease Interceptor Size:

Seating Capacity	Heavy Food Preparation	Light Food Preparation
50 or more	750-gallon interceptor	250-gallon interceptor
Less than 50 or takeout food establishments	250-gallon interceptor	20 gpm flow rating or 40-pound retention capacity interceptor





## **Permit Required?**

Yes—plumbing permit

## **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes

## **Post-Installation Inspection?**

No

## **Minimum Size?**

750 gallons

## **Pump Out Frequency:**

Every 90 days

## **Manifest Retention:**

3 years

## **Sample Port Required?**

Yes

## **Variances?**


No


## **More Info:**


No grease interceptors may be located inside the establishment


City of Eules Ordinance: <http://bit.ly/1FgpoZM>


Public Works: (817) 685-1580

 **Permit Required?**  
Yes


 **New Installation Inspection?**  
Yes


 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
The Plumbing Department is responsible for final inspection and approval of grease trap and sample basin


 **Minimum Size?**  
500–750 gallons

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Minimum every 90 days

 **Manifest Retention:**  
5 years

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Sample basin requirement; yes after all pretreatment devices

 **Variances?**  
Yes

 **More Info:**  
<http://fortworthtexas.gov/water/info/default.aspx?id=4660>



## **Permit Required?**

Yes

## **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes

## **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Cleaning report once every 3 months

## **Minimum Size?**

500 gallons; depends on the drainage fixture units (DFUs)

## **Pump Out Frequency:**

Minimum of every 90 days, unless extension granted by Building Official

## **Manifest Retention:**

3 years

## **Sample Port Required?**

Yes

## **Variances?**

Yes—contact Building Official

## **More Info:**

[www.ci.frisco.tx.us/DEPARTMENTS/  
PLANNINGDEVELOPMENT/BUILDINGINSPECTIONS/  
Pages/Inspections.aspx](http://www.ci.frisco.tx.us/DEPARTMENTS/PLANNINGDEVELOPMENT/BUILDINGINSPECTIONS/Pages/Inspections.aspx)



## Permit Required?

Yes—plumbing permit



## New Installation Inspection?

Depends—contact Building Inspection\*



## Post-Installation Inspection?

Depends—contact Building Inspection\*



## Minimum Size?

Depends on business, food type, etc.\*\*



## Pump Out Frequency:

Minimum every 6 months



## Manifest Retention:

1 year



## Sample Port Required?

Depends—contact Building Inspection\*



## Variances?

Only with Health Department Director's approval



## More Info:

[www.ci.garland.tx.us/gov/ab/building/default.asp](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/gov/ab/building/default.asp)

[www.ci.garland.tx.us/gov/hk/health/services/standard.asp](http://www.ci.garland.tx.us/gov/hk/health/services/standard.asp)

\* Building Inspection direct line: (972) 205-2300


\*\* Health Department direct line: (972) 205-3460


# Grand Prairie




 **Permit Required?**  
Yes—plumbing permit

 **New Installation Inspection?**  
Yes—by Building Inspections


 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
No


 **Minimum Size?**  
500 gallons

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Minimum every 30 days, 90 days, or every 6 months\*

 **Manifest Retention:**  
2 years

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Yes

 **Variances?**  
Yes


 **More Info:**  
[www.gptx.org/index.aspx?page=103#FoodandAlcohol](http://www.gptx.org/index.aspx?page=103#FoodandAlcohol)


\* Pump out frequency requirements are determined by the type of facility.


Every 30 days for facilities that serve fried foods, every 90 days for facilities that serve non-fried foods, and every 6 months for daycare centers.


# Grapevine





 **Permit Required?**  
Yes—plumbing permit

 **New Installation Inspection?**  
Yes


 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
Yes

 **Minimum Size?**  
By engineer design

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Minimum every 30 days, 90 days,  
or 6 months\*

 **Manifest Retention:**  
3 years

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Yes

 **Variances?**  
Yes

 **More Info:**


[www.municode.com/library/tx/grapevine/  
codes/code\\_of\\_ordinances](http://www.municode.com/library/tx/grapevine/codes/code_of_ordinances)


\* Pump out frequency requirements are determined by the type of facility.


Every 30 days for facilities that serve fried foods, every 90 days for facilities that serve non-fried foods, and every 6 months for daycare centers.

 **Permit Required?**  
No

 **New Installation Inspection?**  
Yes


 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
No


 **Minimum Size?**  
250 gallons and 750 gallons\*

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Every 90 days

 **Manifest Retention:**  
3 years

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Yes—for new installations

 **Variances?**  
Yes

 **More Info:**

[www.cityofirving.org/Water-Utilities/  
environmental-compliance.asp](http://www.cityofirving.org/Water-Utilities/environmental-compliance.asp)

\* A variance may be granted for non-grease-producing establishments that manufacture dough-like material, such as sandwich shops, no-fry pizza parlors, and bakeries. All other establishments with four fixtures or less require a minimum 250-gallon grease trap. Establishments with more than four fixtures require a minimum 750-gallon capacity grease interceptor. All grease interceptors shall be located on the exterior of the establishment. See website for more info.



## Permit Required?

Yes—plumbing or building permit



## New Installation Inspection?

Yes



## Post-Installation Inspection?

Yes



## Minimum Size?

No, but must be approved by the City



## Pump Out Frequency:

Every 90 days



## Manifest Retention:

3 years



## Sample Port Required?

No



## Variances?

Yes




## More Info:


International Plumbing Code








 **Permit Required?**  
Yes—plumbing permit

 **New Installation Inspection?**  
Yes


 **Post-Installation Inspection?**  
Yes—the City inspects twice a year

 **Minimum Size?**  
No—size is determined by applicant's mechanical engineer

 **Pump Out Frequency:**  
Minimum is every 180 days, unless determined through inspection not to meet the 25% rule

 **Manifest Retention:**  
3 years

 **Sample Port Required?**  
Yes

 **Variances?**  
No



## **Permit Required?**

Yes, on all new and repair installations—building/plumbing permit

## **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes, on all permits—inspections based on approved permit design information

## **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Yes—a final install inspection and others after as determined by sampling, pumping, or violations

## **Minimum Size?**

Based on 2012 International Plumbing Code (IPC) Section 1003 Interceptors and Separators and/or engineer design

## **Pump Out Frequency:**

Based on Section 1003.10 of the 2012 IPC and/or as needed

## **Manifest Retention:**

3 years

## **Sample Port Required?**

Yes

## **Variances?**

May be considered under engineer design request

## **More Info:**

City of McKinney does recognize design in accordance with the Plumbing and Drainage Institute (PDI)—[www.pdionline.org](http://www.pdionline.org)

City of McKinney has adopted the 2012 IPC for design and installation requirements—[www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

City of McKinney Building Inspection Department website: [www.mckinneytexas.org/index.aspx?NID=243](http://www.mckinneytexas.org/index.aspx?NID=243)

# Mineral Wells



### **Permit Required?**

Only during installation



### **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes\*



### **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Determined by sampling, pumping,  
or violations



### **Minimum Size?**

200 gallons



### **Pump Out Frequency:**

Every 90 days, unless extension is granted



### **Manifest Retention:**

5 years



### **Sample Port Required?**

Yes



### **Variances?**

Yes



### **More Info:**

[www.mineralwellstx.gov/index.aspx?nid=135](http://www.mineralwellstx.gov/index.aspx?nid=135)

\* New installation inspection must be done by both a building official and the pretreatment department.

 **Permit Required?**

Yes

 **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes

 **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Yes

 **Minimum Size?**


500 gallons

 **Pump Out Frequency:**


180 days

 **Manifest Retention:**

5 years

 **Sample Port Required?**

Yes

 **Variances?**

No



### **Permit Required?**

Yes—plumbing permit



### **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes



### **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Yes



### **Minimum Size?**

Mechanical, Electrical, and Plumbing (MEP) engineer must sign off that 2012 International Plumbing Code is met



### **Pump Out Frequency:**

90 days



### **Manifest Retention:**

3 years



### **Sample Port Required?**

No



### **Variances?**

Yes—only for approved special circumstances

# Prosper



## **Permit Required?**

Yes, on all new and repair installations—building/plumbing permit

## **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes, on all permits—inspections based on approved permit design information

## **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Yes—a final install inspection and others after as determined by sampling, pumping, and/or violations and per Health Department requirements

## **Minimum Size?**

No\*

## **Pump Out Frequency:**

Based on Section 1003.10 of the 2012 International Plumbing Code (IPC) and per Health Department requirements

## **Manifest Retention:**

3 years or per Health Department requirements

## **Sample Port Required?**

Yes

## **Variances?**

May be considered under engineer design request with Building Inspections and Health Department approvals

## **More Info:**

Town of Prosper recognizes design in accordance with the Plumbing and Drainage Institute (PDI)—[www.pdionline.org](http://www.pdionline.org)

Town of Prosper adopted the 2012 IPC for design and installation requirements—[www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

Town of Prosper Building Inspection Department website: [www.prospertx.gov/tabid/654/Default.aspx](http://www.prospertx.gov/tabid/654/Default.aspx)

\* Sizing based on 2012 IPC Section 1003 Interceptors and Separators and/or engineer design using approved sizing method (e.g., PDI-G101).

# Southlake



### **Permit Required?**

Yes—plumbing permit



### **New Installation Inspection?**

Yes



### **Post-Installation Inspection?**

Yes—the City inspects as needed



### **Minimum Size?**

Sizing is determined using guidance from the International Plumbing Code



### **Pump Out Frequency:**

Minimum of every 90 days; more frequently if determined necessary



### **Manifest Retention:**

3 years



### **Sample Port Required?**

Yes



### **Variances?**

Yes—variances allowed when appropriate



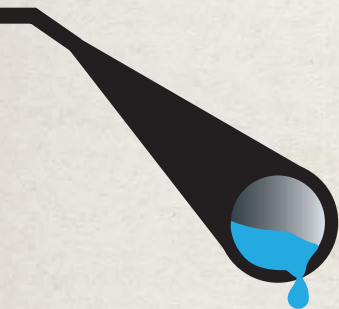
### **More Info:**

City of Southlake FOG Manual,  
[www.cityofsouthlake.com](http://www.cityofsouthlake.com)



For more information about grease traps,  
grease interceptors, grease haulers, and more,  
please visit:

[www.ceasethegreasentx.com](http://www.ceasethegreasentx.com)



Produced by the Wastewater And Treatment  
Education Roundtable in cooperation with  
the North Central Texas Council of Governments.



North Central Texas  
Council of Governments  
[www.nctcog.org](http://www.nctcog.org)