

FATS, OILS & GREASE REGULATION UPDATES

CERTIFIED PUMPER PROGRAM

The Certified Pumper Program is a voluntary program offered to grease pumpers by the LOTT Clean Water Alliance to improve management of fats, oils, and grease from Food Service Establishments (FSEs) and to provide efficiencies for FSEs, grease pumpers, and for LOTT.

LOTT regularly conducts inspections of FSEs to ensure that discharges of fats, oils, and grease to the publicly owned sewer system do not contribute to or cause sewer overflows, or adversely affect wastewater treatment plants.

The inspections focus on the maintenance of grease interceptors. When necessary, FSEs must perform corrective actions that often require services from a grease pumper.



LOTT'S PROGRAM

Program Purpose

The purpose of the Certified Pumper Program is to:

- Establish a point of contact between LOTT and grease pumpers so that minor issues can be resolved directly.
- Help FSEs choose a qualified grease pumper. Certified pumpers would be trained in proper grease interceptor maintenance.
- Define clear grease interceptor cleaning requirements to eliminate the need for a grease pumper to repeat a cleaning service.
- Establish reporting requirements. Certified pumpers will provide LOTT with monthly reports and can submit required maintenance reports on behalf of the FSE.
- Allow FSEs that have their grease interceptors serviced regularly to be inspected less often.

Interceptor Cleaning Requirements

All participating grease pumpers (Pumpers) agree to follow the Grease Interceptor Cleaning Standards. Training is available to Pumpers to clarify grease interceptor cleaning requirements. LOTT and its partner cities determine the grease interceptor pumping frequency and enforce timely installations and repairs.

Scheduling

LOTT may require Pumpers to submit advance notice of a pump-out when there is a grease interceptor that LOTT must inspect when it is empty. In this case, the LOTT inspector will notify the Pumper in advance. The Pumper will provide a minimum of 48 hours notice prior to the pump-out.

The Pumper will notify LOTT of any issue or change in scheduling as soon as possible. It is understood that problems occur (equipment breakdown, employee issues, emergency schedules, etc.) and sometimes Pumpers may not be able to notify the inspector in a timely fashion. However, these are exceptions to the rule, not standard practices.

Reporting

LOTT will follow up on problems identified on pump-out reports, such as broken vaults, corroded traps, and FSEs that cancel service. Pumper reports will not be used for enforcement purposes. LOTT staff will conduct a facility inspection to verify problems identified on pump-out reports.

Follow-Up

If LOTT finds a Pumper fails to adhere to the established cleaning standards, LOTT may contact the Pumper's management (rather than the FSE) and allow them the opportunity to correct the failure. If the company does not correct the problem, LOTT will follow up with the FSE.

Documentation

When there is a complaint, issue, or discrepancy with any requirements of the program, a standard form will be used to document the incident. This will be sent to the Pumper's management to create a record according to a consistent process.

Program Administration

Failure to adhere to the established standards may be grounds for removal from the program. If there are chronic issues with a Pumper, LOTT will contact the company management to work out the issue or remove the company from the program.

Potential new Pumpers will fill out a registration form. The new Pumper will go through a review process with LOTT. Upon approval, the new Pumper will receive an orientation on program requirements and standards.

LOTT will generate an annual report, which will be submitted to its partner cities and Pumpers to document achievements of the program.

Program Benefits

The Certified Pumper Program is intended to assist FSEs and participating Pumpers by:

- Helping FSEs choose a qualified grease Pumper and streamlining their reporting requirements.
- Providing training for certified Pumpers on proper grease interceptor maintenance and allowing them to submit required maintenance reports on behalf of FSEs.

Grease Interceptor Cleaning Standards

Hydromechanical Grease Interceptor (Grease Trap)

1. Pump out all liquid and solid contents.
2. Remove baffles and scrape clean.
3. Clean and scrape inside the trap.
 - Remove visible grease.
 - Remove ridge tar from the side of the trap.
4. Clean loose material from the lid.
5. Replace baffle.
6. Refill with water to the bottom of the baffle.
7. Note trap condition such as:
 - Missing baffle
 - Estimated volume of grease and sediment
 - Excessive corrosion
 - Gasket in disrepair or missing
 - Evidence of back-ups or overflow

Gravity Grease Interceptor

1. Pump out all liquid and solid contents to the bottom of the interceptor so its structural integrity can be inspected.*
2. Remove all accumulated grease from the walls such as:
 - Ledge/ridge grease
 - Grease clumped on the walls
3. Clean the inlet tee, outlet tee, and baffle wall elbow (if accessible) with a high-pressure hose or pressure washer.
4. Note tank condition such as:
 - Missing pipes
 - Estimated volume of grease and sediment
 - Excessive concrete corrosion
 - Evidence of back-ups or overflow
 - Trash in the interceptor

* It might not always be feasible to completely pump grease interceptors that have not been serviced adequately. In this case, the pumper will notify LOTT and the FSE and provide an estimate of the remaining material and the date of when the pump-out will be completed.



Gravity grease interceptor