

Answers to Common Questions About Grease Traps

Am I required to have a Grease Trap or Grease Interceptor?

Yes. A grease trap is required for any facility whose business activity is the source of cooking grease or oil in its sewage. Examples are, (but not limited to), restaurants, cafeterias, day care facilities, bakeries, deli's, ice cream shops, coffee shops, convenience stores, concession stands, and food processing plants. The Public Utilities Division will determine if you need a Grease Trap or Grease Interceptor.

Can I put a Grease Trap or Grease Interceptor in myself?

No. Only a licensed plumber shall install all Grease Traps and Grease Interceptors in compliance with the latest edition of the Plumbing Code and you will need to obtain a building permit from the City prior to installation.

Who can pump my grease trap?

Only transporters registered with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and the City of Brenham may legally pump and transport grease trap waste within the City of Brenham. Call the Public Utilities Division of the City of Brenham at (979) 337-7402 for a listing of registered transporters.

What is a Grease Waste Manifest?

A grease waste manifest is also known as a waste transporter trip ticket. It is a document constructed of five identical pages, each page being a different color, bound in a carbon copy format. Located at the bottom of every manifest is the legend indicating the destination of each of the five (5) copies, an example is provided below:

1. **White** - Generator Final Copy (provided by the waste transporter)
2. **Green** - Governmental Copy (should be forwarded to the City of Brenham)
3. **Canary** - Transporter Copy
4. **Pink** - Disposal Site Copy
5. **Goldenrod** - Generator Pump Copy

How long do I have to maintain these manifests?

The Generator Final Copy Manifests are required by the City of Brenham to be maintained for a period of five (5) years. Kitchen staff should be made aware of where the manifests are located. Generator Final Copies or a copy of these manifests should be maintained onsite and readily made available upon request.

How often should I have my trap pumped?

Frequency of pumping depends on the size of your trap and the amount of waste you generate. A pump schedule will be set for you by the Public Utilities Division of the City of Brenham. You should arrange to have the trap pumped before it becomes full. This will prevent problems that might arise if you cannot get it pumped when you planned. Scheduled maintenance can avoid the added cost of fixing problems caused by full tanks, such as clogged traps and lines, business interruptions and enforcement actions.

What are the responsibilities as a generator?

- Properly maintaining the trap(s) located within your sewer lines.
- Ensure the proper handling and disposal of the wastes you generate.
- Maintain a paper trail on your waste.
- Take any feasible steps to reduce the amount of waste you generate.
- Train your staff on the best management practices and recycle used grease.

If a registered transporter hauls my grease waste, am I still responsible for the proper disposal of the waste?

Yes. If your waste is illegally dumped, you are considered at fault and you could face enforcement proceedings. As a generator you must ensure that your waste is disposed of at a registered disposal site.