

What Restaurant and Building Owners Need to Know About Grease Traps and Interceptors

Restaurants; large buildings, such as apartment complexes; and other commercial establishments may have grease traps or interceptors that keep grease out of the sewer system. For a grease trap or interceptor to work correctly, it must be properly

- 1) Designed, sized and manufactured to handle the amount of grease that is expected,
- 2) Installed (level, vented, etc.), and
- 3) Maintained (cleaned and serviced on a frequent and regular basis).

Solids should never be put into grease traps or interceptors. Routine, often daily, maintenance of grease traps and interceptors is needed to ensure that they properly reduce or prevent blockages.

Be cautious of chemicals and additives (including soaps and detergents) that claim to dissolve grease. Some of these additives simply allow the grease to pass down service pipes into the sewer system where it can clog the sewer mains in another area.

WATER UTILITIES

Don't flush that stuff... RECYCLE IT!!!

Some household hazardous chemicals that you should not flush down the sewer system include: used motor oil, old paints and thinners, pool chemicals, pesticides and cleaning products.

Household Hazardous Materials Collection Days

When: Second Saturday of each month

Where: Public Works Complex
701 E. Tennessee

Time: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

Materials that will be accepted at this time:

- Fluorescent Light Bulbs
- Batteries (lead-acid, NiCad, alkaline)
- Tires
- White Goods (appliances)
- Furniture

For more information call
318-242-7703 or 318-251-8641

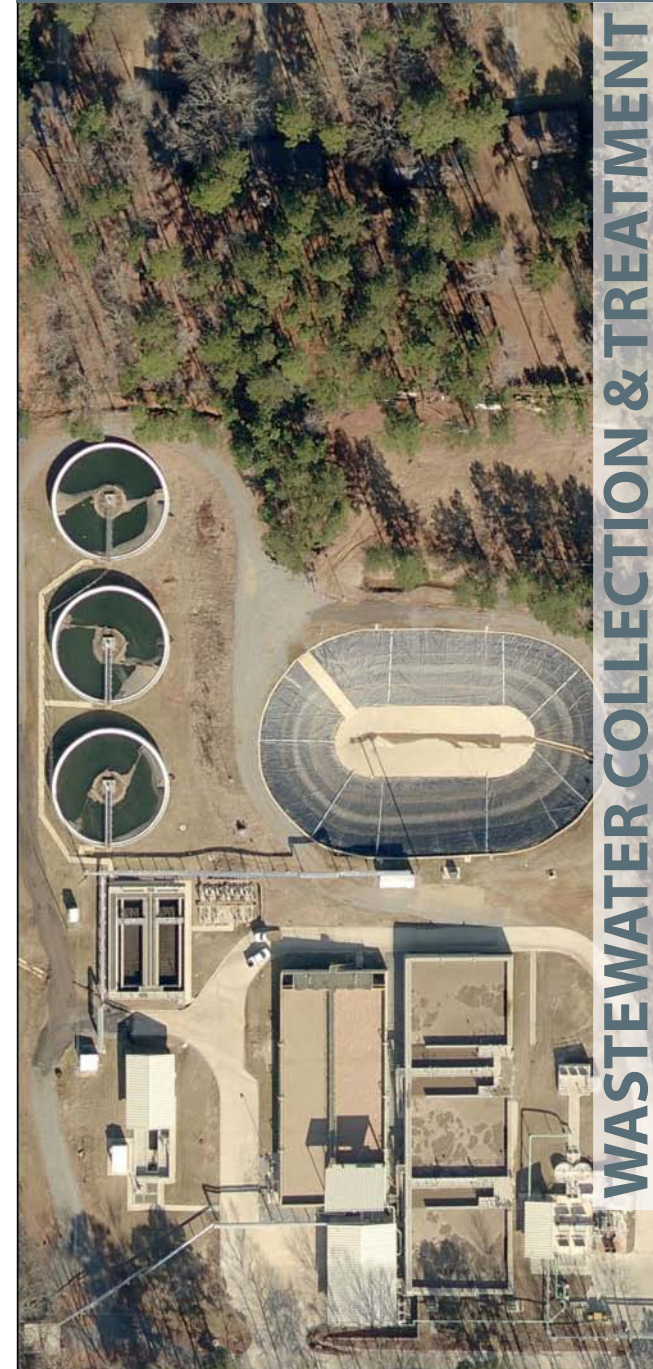
P. O. Box 2069
Ruston, Louisiana 71273-2069

Phone: (318) 251-8611
Fax: (318) 242-7708

Email: WaterUtilities@ruston.org

Normal Business Hours
Monday - Friday
7:00 am - 3:30 pm

For after hours emergency call
318-255-1316



WASTEWATER COLLECTION & TREATMENT



www.ruston.org

Most of us know grease as the byproduct of cooking. Grease is found in such things as:



- Meat fats
- Lard
- Cooking oil
- Shortening
- Butter & Margarine
- Food scraps
- Baking goods
- Sauces
- Dairy products

Too often, grease is washed into the plumbing system, usually through the kitchen sink. Grease sticks to the insides of sewer pipes (both on your property and in the collection system). Over time, the grease can build up and block the entire pipe.

Home garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing system. These units only shred solid material into smaller pieces and do not prevent grease from going down the drain.

Commercial additives, including detergents, that claim to dissolve grease may pass grease down the line and cause problems in other areas.

Sewer overflows and backups can cause health hazards, damage to home interiors, and threaten the environment. An increasingly common cause of overflows is sewer pipes blocked by grease. Grease gets into the sewer from household drains as well as from poorly maintained grease traps in restaurants and other businesses.



The results can be:

- Raw sewage overflowing into your home or your neighbor's home
- An expensive and unpleasant cleanup that often must be paid for by you, the homeowner
- Potential contact with disease-causing organisms
- An increase in operation and maintenance costs for the sewer department, which causes higher sewer bills for customers

The easiest way to solve the grease problem and help prevent overflows is to keep this material out of the sewer system in the first place.

There are several ways to do this.

- Never pour grease down the sink drains or into toilets.
- Scrape grease and food scraps from plates, pots, pans, utensils and grills and cooking surfaces into a can or the trash for disposal.
- Do not put grease down garbage disposals. Put baskets or strainers in sink drains to catch food scraps and other solids, and empty into the trash for disposal.
- Speak with your friends and neighbors about the problem of grease in the sewer system and how to keep it out. Call the Water Utility Department if you have any questions.

