



Complying With Storm & Sanitary Sewer Requirements

Guidelines for Restaurants

Restaurants play a large role in preventing water pollution and sewer blockages. Newark City Code requires proper disposal of grease because grease causes blockages in the sewers, which can cause sewage back-ups to the businesses and homes in the area. While a stream may not be visible near your restaurant, all stormwater eventually drains to a local stream, which may be a tributary to one of our rivers. Restaurant managers and employees should practice the following:

- ❑ **Never allow kitchen grease to enter any drain not connected to a grease trap or interceptor. Restaurants are required by City Code to use approved grease traps.**
- ❑ **Determine a proper maintenance schedule for your grease trap or interceptor. Frequency should be based on the amount of oil and grease generated and the size of the grease removal unit.** If it is not cleaned out as often as needed, the effectiveness of the system decreases as the accumulated grease increases, allowing grease to enter the sewer.
- ❑ **Scrape food wastes from plates into the trash before washing. Do not use the garbage disposal for greasy food wastes – it is not usually plumbed to the grease trap.**
- ❑ **Use paper towels to wipe up grease from work areas instead of washing it down the drain.**
- ❑ **Store grease containers away from floor and storm drains to prevent spilling into the drains and keep them properly covered.** Make sure grease collection containers are emptied regularly by your hauling company. Keep them in a secure area, like behind a dumpster fence.
- ❑ **Don't dump mopwater and other "gray water" into parking lots or storm drains.** Pour it down sinks and toilets instead, where it will flow to the city's wastewater treatment plant. Storm drains empty to local streams and rivers, untreated, and an excess of pollutants can cause fish kills and other problems.
- ❑ **Keep trash dumpster lids closed and make sure your dumpster does not leak liquids onto the ground.**
- ❑ **Keep trash and litter around your property cleaned up.** Sweep up litter; do not flush down storm drains.
- ❑ **Do not use soap or degreasers if you need to hose off sidewalks, parking lots or equipment.** Absorb any oily residue with an absorbent material such as cat litter or paper towels and sweep up debris before spraying. Make sure any contractors are aware of the regulations too as your business may be held responsible for their actions.
- ❑ **Use fertilizers, weed killers and de-icing materials only as needed,** follow the instructions and do not overapply.
- ❑ **Report hazardous spills or dumping immediately.** If an accident occurs or you notice an illegal discharge, immediately call 349-6768. Also notify the Ohio EPA at 1-800-282-9378.
- ❑ **Do not use or add:** hot water, acids, caustics, solvents or emulsifying agents to Grease Traps or Grease Interceptors.



More FOG information can be obtained at the City of Newark website:
<https://www.newarkohio.gov/wastewater-treatment-plant/>