
FORT CAMPBELL ENVIRONMENTAL HANDBOOK
Guidance and Instruction
GREASE TRAPS

1. **Purpose and Scope:**

The purpose of this guidance is to ensure proper operation and maintenance of grease traps and interceptors. A grease trap or a grease interceptor (see *Definitions* below) serve to ensure separation and retention of suspended grease from wastewater before the water enters the sanitary sewer system.

2. **Reference:**

- a. TB MED 530, Occupational and Environmental Health Food Service Sanitation, November, 1991.
- b. Grease Trap Policy, Recommended Sizing Formula and Design Criteria for Nashville and Davidson County, Department of Codes Administration, February 1994.
- c. Water Pollution Control Act (WPCA) Amendments of 1972 (PL 92-500).
- d. Clean Water Act (CWA) 1977.

3. **Definitions:**

Grease interceptors (sometimes called separators) are generally larger than a grease trap and are installed underground outside the facility. Grease traps are usually located close to the fixture inside the facility.

- a. Grease trap - a device designed to retain grease from one to a maximum of four fixtures. Such traps must be cleaned frequently by purging. If not cleaned, hot water will liquefy the grease and carry it through the trap and into the sewer system , possibly clogging the pipes.
- b. Grease Interceptor - An interceptor of at least 750 gallon capacity to serve one or more fixtures and which can be remotely located. Grease interceptors are preferred over grease traps, but may be excessive for many establishments, and are more like a septic tank or an oil/water separator. When the grease interceptors become full, they are pumped by tanker trucks.

4. **General:**

One of the most important tasks in the wastewater treatment system for fats, oils, and grease (FOG) is pretreatment. Proper pretreatment will ensure that improper grease trap maintenance does not endanger the public health, or result in regulatory action against Fort Campbell by State and Federal enforcement agencies. If the user/operator of a grease trap/interceptor fails to maintain his system properly, the result is likely to be damage to sewers, the environment, or the public health with resulting criminal, or civil action against the commander; or both. The consequences of such civil/criminal action may include injunctions, fines, or incarceration. This command considers proper maintenance, and inspection of grease traps/interceptors to be of extreme importance, and all units/facilities will be held to a high standard of compliance. See attachment 1 for the list of Mess Halls and responsible EQOs.

5. **Responsibilities**

- a. Commander - The commander of each facility is responsible for putting in place procedures sufficient to assure that the immediate operator of each grease trap/separator inspects and maintains his equipment appropriately. The Environmental Quality Officer (EQO) for the facility will conduct inspections as needed to assure compliance.

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b. PWBC - Operations and Maintenance Division and the PWBC Environmental Division will be responsible for compliance inspections of grease traps and interceptors. Any noncompliance with the Grease Trap Guidance will be reported to the G. C. for Corrective Administrative Action.

c. Immediate operator - The immediate operator of each trap/interceptor is responsible for familiarizing themselves with the system they operate, and inspecting the equipment often enough to ensure that the system operates properly. Since Fort Campbell has a wide variety of grease traps and interceptors, each immediate operator must take the initiative in learning proper operation and maintenance of responsible equipment.

6. **Instructions:**

a. All cooking facilities will comply with the following:

1) Establishing procedures for operation and maintenance of their equipment (See Attachment 2).

2) Maintain an active log of all grease pumped or purged from the interceptor or grease trap and all cooking oil pumped from the drums in the storage containers. The logs will be maintained by the responsible official on site and be available for inspection by PWBC personnel. The log will contain the date, who did the cleaning, inspection, or pumping and any relevant comments (see Attachment

b. Frequency of Pumping or Purging - Check periodically that additional pumping of the interceptors is not needed. If needed, the unit will be responsible for making the request. The purging frequency of the grease traps is determined by the use load factor. An ideal purging cycle can be set after a determination of the amount of grease used. The operator must determine when a logical purging cycle is required.

7. **Additional Guidance:**

a. If a facility is found to be in violation of the requirements set forth herein, the commander of the unit responsible for the facility shall, within 72 hours, report in writing to the garrison commander. Said report shall contain an explanation of how the violation came to pass, and set forth procedural, and personnel actions taken to prevent reoccurrence. If this is a repeat violation, or if the garrison commander sees fit for any reason, the commander and the immediate operator of the facility shall be required to appear in person before the garrison commander and explain the violation. The garrison commander shall then, at his absolute discretion, take such corrective action as he deems appropriate in accordance with the rules and regulations of the United States Army including the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

b. For site specific O&M manuals, additional information or answers to your questions, contact PWBC Environmental Division, 798-9639 / 9641 / 9598.

c. For future reference, place this document behind *Tab Number 20* in your Fort Campbell Handbook.