



Comhairle Contae Thiobraid Árann
Tipperary County Council

FATS, OILS AND GREASES – CLOGGING THE SYSTEM

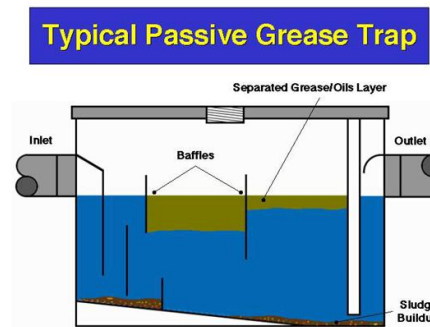
An Information Leaflet for Food Service Establishments

Waste fats, oils and greases (FOG) from food service establishments cannot be treated in the wastewater system and must be kept out of the sewers.

FOG does not dissolve in wastewater at normal temperatures. It sticks to surfaces of pipes causing blockages in the sewer system and to the surfaces of equipment in the treatment plant causing further blockages, and equipment breakdown. The FOG will continue to build up in the sewer line restricting flow, and will eventually cause blockages.

Grease Traps

All food service establishments should have a trap on the wastewater outlet to enable removal of FOG. A grease trap works by slowing down the flow of hot greasy water allowing it to cool and the FOG to solidify. The FOG is trapped by 'baffles' preventing it from entering the sewer system. The grease must be **physically removed** from the unit. Grease traps can be located inside the building on the drainage system or larger outside systems can also be used.



Type of grease trap

Not all grease traps work equally well. Tipperary County Council require all grease

traps installed to conform to the Irish Standard EN 1825 Grease Separators -Part 1 (Principals of Design, Performance, Testing, Marketing and Quality Control) and I.S. EN 1825 Grease Separators - Part II (Selection of Nominal Size, Installation, Operation and Maintenance) published by the National Standards Authority of Ireland.

Grease traps that use an additive (e.g. bacteria, chemicals or enzymes etc) to dissolve the collected grease are **not acceptable**, as they do not comply with the above standard. They operate by breaking down the grease without removing it. The grease will reform further down the sewer network and cause problems.

Maintaining a Grease Trap

To work properly a grease trap requires frequent cleaning. How often the grease trap is cleaned will depend on the type and amount of wastewater. A well maintained

grease trap and a documented cleaning regime would demonstrate your establishment is not contributing to a FOG problem.

Best Management Practices

Implementation of best management practices will reduce the risk of fats, oils or grease getting into the sewer. For example,

- Separate waste food for disposal to landfill or preferably for composting
- Use a permitted waste collector to remove waste oils. This should include waste oils from fryers and fats from frying pans, ovens etc.
- Contain any spillages of oils and soak them up using dry material such as cat litter, spill kits etc. Dispose of this to the waste bin.
- Keep staff informed and trained
- Document and display your Best Management Practices for everyone to see

FOG and the Law

It is an offence under Section 16(1) of the **Public Health Act 1890** for “any person to throw or suffer to be thrown, or to pass into any sewer of a local authority or any drain communicating with such a sewer, any matter or substance which interferes with the free flow of the sewage or surface or storm water or which injures such sewer or drain”.

In other words it is against the law for anyone to throw or put anything into the drains or sewers belonging to the local authority, or any drain connecting to the public sewer (may be in private property), that would block or damage the sewer so that sewage or storm water could not flow through it.

Section 16 of the **Water Pollution Acts 1977 & 1990** requires all discharges of trade effluent to the sewer to be licensed by the Sanitary Authority. The licence may contain

conditions relating to the quality of effluent permitted, charges for treatment etc.

Further Information

For further information contact the Water Services Section or the Environment Section of Tipperary County Council.

See the Golden Pages for drain cleaning services and providers of approved grease traps.

Tipperary County Council

Telephone No.: 0761 – 065 000

E-mail: customerservices@tipperarycoco.ie

Address: Civic Offices, Clonmel, Co. Tipperary,
or Civic Offices, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary.