

City of Hampton Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) Program

Grease Gets Into the Sewer System One Way... People Dump it There!

The City of Hampton developed its FOG Reduction Program in response to an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandate. FOG which stands for "Fats, Oils and Grease," can become a nightmare. All facilities that produce FOG have the potential to cause sanitary sewer overflows, commonly called SSO's.

When grease-laden water, food scraps and other debris enter the sewer system, FOG can build up on pipe walls and restrict the flow. When running water is unable to continue going forward it reverses direction. This causes wastewater to back up and flow into our streets, storm drains, or even back into the kitchen.

A successful FOG program combines employee training and regular scheduled cleaning of grease control devices. These steps generally decrease maintenance costs for the city and the Food Service Establishment (FSE). When FOG is not contained, the result may be increased plumbing costs, enforcement for FSEs, closures due to backups, increased sewer rates for taxpayers, and damage to our local environment.

Visit: www.hampton.gov/fog to access the FOG ordinance, maintenance logs, HRSD permitted haulers list, and more.

Begin Implementing Best Management Practices Known as the BMP's:

Step 1: Visit www.hampton.gov/fog to register your facility.

Step 2: Include FOG when training staff on the kitchen BMP's. Have managers and supervisors take the free certification at: www.hrfog.com. Choose your preferred language from the language bar in the upper left corner.

Step 3: Choose a cleaning company from HRSD's approved hauler list found on the FOG website. Some companies clean grease interceptors and extract yellow grease. Most companies do not charge to deliver your yellow grease bin. Ask companies you contact if they also clean up grease spills.

Step 4: Assemble a spill kit to respond to grease spills inside and outside your facility. Your tool kit should include a five-gallon bucket, an absorbent material like oil dry or sand, gloves, and absorbent socks and pads.

If you have a grease spill at your facility immediately spread an absorbent to contain the grease. If the spill is outside, position large absorbent socks at storm drains to prevent grease from entering. Immediately contact a professional cleaning company. You must also contact Hampton's 311 call center at 757.727-8311, and Hampton's FOG inspector at 757.726-2962 to report the spill.

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FOG Terms and Definitions

- **Best Management Practices (BMPs):** effective methods or techniques that achieve a desired objective, e.g. passing facility inspections.
- **Brown Grease:** grease, food solids and water captured by grease interceptors.
- **FOG:** food scraps, fatty meats, cheese, ice cream, butter, chocolate, peanut butter, salad dressings, etc.
- **Grease Haulers:** companies that clean interceptors, pick up used cooking oil, or both.
- **Illicit Discharge:** disposal of anything except stormwater into the City's stormwater drains.
- **OSHA:** acronym for Occupational, Safety and Health Administration
- **Sanitary Sewer Overflow (SSO):** discharging untreated sewer water into the environment.
- **Yellow Grease:** cooking or vegetable oil for frying food. Can be recycled as other products, e.g., makeup or animal food.

To learn industry practices for saving money on food packaging, water service and more, visit:
Restaurant-Hospitality@enews.restaurant-hospitality.com

OSHA Walking Working Standards for Grease Trap Hazard Prevention

OSHA Requires Grease Trap Safety Education for Restaurant Employees. Copy and paste the link below to learn what is required: <https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3986.pdf>.

Washington State Becomes First State with Wipes Labeling Law

(March 27, 2020) – Washington State became the first state with a wipes labeling law on March 25, when Gov. Jay Inslee signed Washington's [HB 2565](#). The law requires "Do Not Flush" logos on non-flushable wipes, with language to specify the size, placement and contrast of the logo. The bill does not set a standard for using the term "flushable" on packaging, however. The bill passed through the legislature with overwhelming support, with votes of 36-10 in the Senate and 93-4 in the House.

Copy, paste and click the link below to read the full story:

<https://www.nacwa.org/news-publications/clean-water-current-archives/clean-water-current/2020/03/27/washington-becomes-first-state-with-wipes-labeling-law> [nacwa.org]

#Working Together to Reduce FOG