

How often should I have my grease trap cleaned?

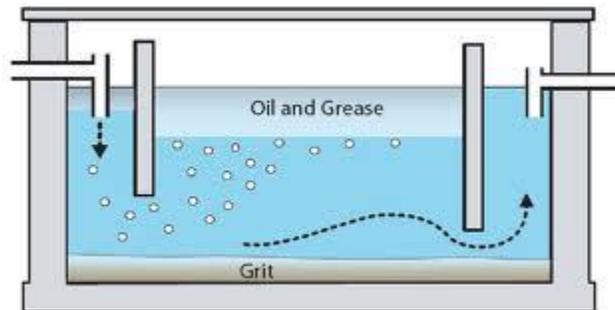
The expense of cleaning your grease trap is one that you would rather not pay. It doesn't help your food and beverage sales, it doesn't create loyal customers or even help improve quality. It is just a cost of doing business. To save money, you may decide to do it yourself. Cleaning your grease interceptor on a regular basis will keep it from creating odors. So, how often do you really need to have your grease trap cleaned?

The City of Beloit's grease trap program recommends that interior grease traps are cleaned at least once per month and that includes that the grease interceptor is ***completely drained, scraped with all solids and greases removed.*** Regular cleaning will also help reduce the hydrogen sulfide that will eat away at metal grease traps. Monthly servicing ends up being the typical service interval due to regulations in the Sewer Use Ordinance Chapter 29.

29.04(h) Maintenance of Interceptors Required . (Am. #3203; #3318) Any person who is required by Ch. 82, Wis. Adm. Code, to install a grease interceptor, oil interceptor or sand interceptor shall, at all times, maintain the interceptor in proper working order. The interceptor shall be readily accessible for cleaning and inspection at all times. No person may return gray water to an interceptor unless a written variance is granted by the City. "Gray water" means all liquid contained in a grease interceptor that lies below the floating grease layer and above the solid grease layer. The owner of a grease interceptor shall keep a log describing the cleaning and repairs performed on the grease interceptor and the dates of such activity. The log shall be kept on site for 3 years.

29.10(r) Any wastewater containing fat, wax, grease or oil, in excess of 300 mg/l, whether emulsified or not, which may solidify or cause interference or become viscous at temperatures between 32°F (0°C) and 150°F (65.6°C); or any wastewater containing oil and grease concentration of mineral origin or greater than 25 mg/l whether emulsified or not. (Am. #3043; #3203)

Technically, however your grease trap should be cleaned when the grease fraction is 25% of the volume of the trap or your solids fraction is 25% of the trap. See grease trap picture:



If you have a grease fraction of greater than 25% of the volume of the trap, you risk a greater degree of grease flowing downstream into your drain pipes, same with solids. The more greases/solids flow through the trap, the more likely you are to have a backup.

Good housekeeping practices and regular grease trap maintenance are your best protection.