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Grease Traps – Best Practices

Grease traps (or grease interceptors) collect fats-oil-grease from your facilities' waste water before your waste water is discharged to the sanitary sewer. Everything you add to your water finds its way to your grease trap. When a grease trap runs smoothly – no one gives it a second thought; when a grease trap causes problems – it becomes the first thing on your “to-do” list.

Here are some typical problems associated with grease traps:

- Growth of unwanted pathogenic (disease causing) bacteria (e coli, etc...)
- Foul odors attracting pests (insects) to “breed and feed” in your facility
- Drain blockages down-line interrupting operations
- Rotting grease causing strong foul odors in your facility
- Poor performance requiring excessive pump outs and plumbing costs

To avoid or reduce these problems, try these grease trap “Best Practices”

1. Pump out your grease trap on a regular basis
2. After pump-out, ensure that the pH in the grease trap is above 5.0 (if you are not sure, add water directly into the trap or add a mild caustic plus water to your grease trap) and rinse.
3. Meter in a GREENER-CHOICE™ APPROVED grease trap microbial concentrate that has a minimum cfu count of 125 billion cfu (colony forming units) per litre and plus a sodium nitrate content.
4. The grease trap microbial concentrate should be metered in 20x (15ml each time) per day starting before operations. The tube should be inserted past the “P” trap and the grease trap microbial concentrate should be injected either just before the grease trap or directly in to the grease trap.
5. The rate for a typical grease trap using a microbial concentrate that has a cfu count of 125 billion cfu per litre and a sodium nitrate content is 15ml per dose or 315ml per day (18.9 litres/ 5 US gal pail will last 2 months).
6. You will achieve “best” results and better economy if you add air to the grease trap by inserted an airline directly into your grease trap. Using a standard aquarium air pump and tubing is fine and will save you money over time.
7. Finally, reduce the amount of harsh chemical products you put down the drain (sanitizers, bleach, acids, caustics)

Here's why

The grease trap microbial concentrate has microorganisms that help convert the fats-oils-grease in your grease trap to water and carbon dioxide.

The GREENER-CHOICE™ APPROVED designation means that the microbial product you are using has been tested and confirmed that the product is effective, safer for humans and better for the environment.

The standard minimum count of 125 billion cfu (colony forming units) per litre for your grease trap microbial concentrate is important to keep in mind since there are many poor quality grease trap products on the market that have significantly lower concentrations of microorganisms and may not work well in your grease trap. If a vendor will not disclose the count of their microbial concentrate, you are better to work with one that will tell you what their concentration is.

Adding air to your grease trap will significantly improve the activity of your microorganisms – this means a faster conversion of grease into water and carbon dioxide – so a lower grease build-up in your trap. Following these “Best Practices” will help to ensure the proper performance of your grease trap so that it runs “trouble free”!