

# Trade Waste: Pre-treating with grease traps

HELP PROTECT  
THE SEWER  
SYSTEM AND THE  
ENVIRONMENT

Trade waste typically requires pre-treatment on-site before it is discharged into the sewer. A grease interceptor trap (GIT) is the most common pre-treatment.

## Why install a grease trap?

It is very important to stop greasy waste from entering the sewer system.

Grease can solidify in sewer pipes, blocking them and causing sewer spills. It can also affect the water recycling process.

To prevent this, any business producing greasy waste must install a grease trap to intercept cooking oil, grease, fat and food solids.

## What size grease trap does your business need?

The size of a grease trap is generally based on a maximum flow rate measured in litres per hour.

Visit our website and use our grease trap calculator to help you estimate the size of your grease trap.

This calculator should only be used as a guide. After you have submitted your completed application, we will confirm the required grease trap size with you.

## How do I install a grease trap?

Grease traps must be installed by a licensed plumber in a location that provides access for regular pump outs and other maintenance.

Remote suction lines are acceptable, however they must not be connected directly to the grease trap.

Grease traps can be placed either above or below ground. It is preferable for grease traps to drain by gravity to the sewer.

## How do grease traps work?

Grease traps separate the grease and oil from waste water by slowing down the flow of hot greasy water allowing it to cool.

As the hot water cools, the oil and grease will float to the top of the trap. Large solid material will settle at the bottom.

The cooled wastewater is then released into the sewer system leaving the fats, oils, grease, and large solids behind.

## Maintaining your grease trap

It is important to clean your grease trap as fat, oil, grease and large solids will build up and reduce the capacity of the device. This in turn will reduce the detention time of water in the trap and allows pollutants to enter the sewer system.

An EPA licensed contractor must be engaged to pump out your grease trap as the waste material is classified as 'prescribed waste' and must be disposed of at a licensed facility.

Once the works have been undertaken by the waste collector, they will provide you with a copy of the relevant documentation regarding the pump out of the Trade Waste Apparatus.

## This documentation needs to be sent to Western Water within 7 days.

Please email your documentation to [trade.waste@westernwater.com.au](mailto:trade.waste@westernwater.com.au) or mail to PO Box 2371, SUNBURY DC VIC 3429



## REDUCING WASTE

Western Water can advise individual businesses on how to reduce their trade waste volume and charges.

This usually involves reducing water use, and/or reducing the volume of contaminants in your trade waste.

Reducing trade waste can benefit your business through decreased costs, as well as helping Western Water's sewage treatment plants.