

A FACT SHEET FOR

Oil & Grease Definitions

GREASE GOBLIN: Little bad guy who likes to grow in your pipes by feeding off the oil and grease washed into sinks and drains. Prevent the Grease Goblin from loitering in your pipes by practicing dry clean-up of kitchen surfaces, collecting waste oil and grease for rendering, and properly maintaining your grease interceptor.



Grease Goblin

BIOLOGICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (BOD): A measurement that relates to how much oxygen is in the water to support aquatic life due to biological activity. Wastewater with organic material (food particles, oil, and grease) serves as food for aquatic microorganisms. As these microorganisms feed on the organic material their numbers increase and they consume larger amounts of oxygen. If the oxygen level in the water drops too much, fish and other aquatic life may not survive. POTWs can only treat high BOD

wastewater to a certain concentration. If BOD levels become too high, the wastewater may pass through the POTW only partially treated thus endangering aquatic life in water.

CHEMICAL OXYGEN DEMAND (COD): A measure of the oxygen reducing capabilities of wastewater due to chemical reactions. Wastewater with inorganic material (such as chemicals from household cleaners and detergents) can cause chemical reactions that absorb oxygen. If large quantities of these chemicals enter wastewater, chemical reactions occur which consume large amounts of oxygen. If the oxygen level in the water drops too much, fish and other aquatic life may not survive. POTWs can only treat small quantities of COD in wastewater. If COD levels become too high, the wastewater may pass through the POTW only partially treated thus endangering aquatic life in water.

FOOD RESCUE PROGRAM: A voluntary program wherein food service providers donate edible food materials to missions, homeless shelters, etc., for consumption by the less fortunate. Liability in Georgia is protected by both national and State Good Samaritan Laws.

OCTOBER 2 0 0 0

GREASE: Grease includes the accumulation of oils, fats, cellulose, starch, proteins, and wax.

GREASE RENDERER: An organization that will pick-up the collected recyclable grease from the food service operations at little or no charge. The material will then be used in reprocessing for animal feed, tallow, and soap production and in composting.

GREASE TRAP/INTERCEPTOR: An automatic or manual device that separates and retains oils and other light liquids intended for proper disposal, rendering, and recycling.

LOCAL LIMIT: A maximum pollutant level placed on wastewater discharged to the City or Town sewer. These local limits are listed in the Sewer Use Ordinance or a permit issued directly to the source that are required to meet all local limits. Cities and Towns may impose special local limits on food providers for pollutants such as oil and grease, BOD, and TSS.

OIL: Any one or a combination of mineral, vegetable, and synthetic substances and animal and vegetable fats that are used in a variety of processes.

PRETREATMENT COORDINATOR: A designated City or Town employee who oversees discharges to the City POTW. Generally pretreatment coordinator will be involved in implementing or operating the City or Town oil and grease program.

PUBLICLY OWNED TREATMENT WORKS (POTW): A Town or City owned wastewater treatment facility. Wastewater treatment plants are primarily designed to remove BOD and TSS from household, commercial (including food service establishments), and industrial wastewaters discharged by facilities in a City.

SANITARY SEWER OVERFLOW (SSO): Overflow of a City or Town sewer often due to a blockage in a line. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency estimates that up to 80% of SSOs are caused by oil and grease blockages. Sanitary sewer overflows often result in the release of many thousands of gallons of untreated wastewater. A City or Town will be fined and be subject to many other legal requirements by the State of Georgia if a small quantity of wastewater from an overflow reaches a stream or river.

SEWER USE ORDINANCE (SUO): A Town or City legal document stating the requirements of all facilities (including restaurants) discharging to the local POTW. The document provides legal authority to the City or Town to implement local limits on wastewater discharges that protect the POTW, POTW workers, public health, and surface waters of Georgia.

TOTAL SUSPENDED SOLIDS (TSS): The quantity of solid particles contained in wastewater. Suspended solids from food establishments are a cause for concern for two reasons. Suspended solids are often food particles, which are high in BOD. They may also contribute to blockages in sewer lines or other equipment required to handle the City or Town wastewater e.g. pump stations.



The **Grease Goblin** is the mascot for P²AD's Oil and Grease Management Program. He serves as a reminder to keep grease out of sinks and drains before it becomes a nuisance.

This is a publication by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources' Pollution Prevention Assistance Division, which has been adapted with permission from a publication by the North Carolina Division of Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assistance. Information contained in this publication is believed to accurate and reliable. However, the application of this information is at the readers' risk. Mention of products, services, or vendors in this publication does not constitute an endorsement by the State of Georgia. Information contained in this publication may be cited freely.