

Plumbing Regulation

Advisory Note

Current as at September 2008

DRAINAGE: TRADE WASTE

GREASE ARRESTOR/ INTERCEPTOR TRAPS THEIR FUNCTION AND OPERATION

PURPOSE

To advise property owners and occupants of the requirements of the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* and the *Tasmanian Plumbing Code 2006* regarding the discharge of liquid trade waste into the Network Utility Operator's sewage system.

INTRODUCTION

Wastewater containing grease, fat, oil and solid matter in concentrations above the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* Standards of Acceptance can:

- Restrict or block flow in sewer pipes, which can lead to surcharges and flooding upstream;
- Generate corrosive by-products and odours from decomposing organic material.

A Grease Interceptor Trap (GIT) will treat kitchen waste washing waters only, allowing them to safely discharge to sewer. Floating fats, oils and settled solids are retained in the GIT, while the cleaned waste wash water portion passes to a sewage system.

SERVICING YOUR GIT

Property owners or occupants are responsible for maintaining effective operation of the GIT by ensuring regular servicing. The cleaning/servicing frequency of the GIT is agreed between site management and the Council's Permit Authority under a special plumbing permit. As a guide and depending on the design of the GIT, the maximum build up of wastes in the last compartment of a conventional underflow GIT should not exceed:

- 100mm of grease/oil and/or solids accumulation in the last chamber; or
- 200mm of grease/oil and/or solids accumulation in the first chamber.

Accumulated wastes are to be removed by authorised Liquid Waste Contractors (refer to the Yellow Pages under "Waste Reduction & Disposal Services Sewage Waste"). Should blockages or any damage to the Network Utility Operator's sewerage system occur as a result of inadequate GIT maintenance, action may be taken to recover incurred costs.

INFORMATION FOR USERS

- **Good management practices**, which minimise the interceptors' workload, lead to reliable operation and reduce maintenance costs. Overworked interceptors may need to be upgraded, if monitoring indicates an inferior standard of treatment;

- Keep the **volume** of wastewaters flowing to the GIT each hour to within its design capacity (i.e. a minimum of 1 hour retention is normally required). Avoid rapid discharges of large volumes of wastewater. Otherwise wastes could be flushed into sewer pipes, causing a blockage.
- Minimise wastewater **temperature**. High temperatures inhibit separation of oil/fat and promote odour causing chemical reactions. The maximum allowed to sewer is 38°C.
- Minimise **solids and oils** going to the GIT. The service frequency can be reduced if pre-cleaning steps are used before wash down. Never pour waste oil and fat into the GIT. Set this aside for removal by an Authorised Liquid Waste Contractor.
- **Detergents** may retard effective separation of wastes from the water within the GIT. Always use an acceptable type of detergent.

MORE INFORMATION

The **Plumbing Regulations 2004** is available online at: www.thelaw.tas.gov.au

The **Tasmanian Plumbing Code 2006** is available online at:
http://www.wst.tas.gov.au/industries/plumbing/plumbing_code

For details about the *Plumbing Regulations 2004* and the *Tasmanian Plumbing Code 2006* contact your Permit Authority (Council); or

Workplace Standards Tasmanian Helpline:

Phone: (in Tasmania) 1300 366 322; Phone: (outside Tasmania) (03) 6233 7657; Fax: (03) 6233 8338

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