



Building Department Newsletter

February 2009

Special points of interest:

- Grease Interceptors
- FOG Fun Facts
- BMP of the Month: Stabilized Construction Entrance
- Update on Greg Colvig

Grease Interceptors

During food preparation or processing (such as when equipment, dishes, utensils, and floors in food service establishments are cleaned) fat, oil and grease (FOG) are washed into the building drain.

As FOG moves from the building drain to the sanitary sewer it solidifies, forms aggregates or encapsulates solids. This slows the flow in the drain pipes causing sewer back ups or completely blocking the city sanitary sewer lines. Encapsulated solids increase the time required and cost of sewage processing at the sewage treatment plant.

To protect the city sanitary sewer, sewage treatment plant and the health of the community, approved grease interceptors are required on grease drain lines leading from sinks, floor drains, floor sinks and other fixtures or equipment in restaurants or other susceptible occupancies that may drain into the city sanitary sewer.

The three types of grease interceptors recognized by the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) are listed below:

1. **Gravity Grease Interceptor:** A gravity grease interceptor is a gravity system that has a 30-minute retention time, at least 2 compartments and is generally installed outside of a building. UPC Table 10-3 is now used to size a gravity grease interceptor.
2. **Hydro-mechanical Grease Interceptor:** A hydro-mechanical grease interceptor is an appliance that is identified by a flow rate, and separation and retention efficiency. The design incorporates air entrainment, hydro-mechanical separation, interior baffles and/or barriers with flow control. This type of separator is generally found inside the building. UPC Table 10-2 is now used to size a hydro-mechanical grease interceptor.
3. **FOG Disposal System:** A FOG disposal system is an alternate method that is a professionally engineered system. FOG disposal systems are required to be tested and certified to meet performance standards stated in the UPC.

Plumbing plan submittals for food service establishments must show the location of the grease interceptor in the waste system, the type of interceptor, the size of the interceptor, a list of the fixtures draining into the grease interceptor and their total drainage fixture units.

FOG Fun Facts:

- Why use the acronym FOG instead of just grease? The composition of what is grease has changed with the increased use of vegetable oils and fat substitutes. FOG accurately describes what a grease interceptor is retaining.
- Nathaniel Whiting patented the gravity grease trap in the late 1890's. The basic design has remained unchanged for over 100 years.
- FOG can be a resource. Recycled FOG can be used in soap, cosmetics, fertilizers, lamp oil and munitions.
- Hydro mechanical grease interceptors will trap FOG in water up to 150 degrees F.
- The most common grease interceptor installation error is installing the grease interceptor backwards.

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Erosion Control BMP of the Month: Stabilized Construction Entrance



A temporary construction entrance is a rock stabilized pad constructed where traffic will be leaving a job site onto a public right of way. The pad needs to be of sufficient depth, length and width to eliminate transportation of mud and sediment from the construction site onto City streets. For large projects (subdivisions, apartments, large commercial, etc.), the pad should be made of 4” - 8” quarry spalls with a minimum thickness of 12” and a geotextile liner at the base. The current City of Pullman standard for the length of the pad is a minimum of 25’ long. However, this will probably increase for large projects when the City adopts the design standards contained in the *WA Dept. of Ecology Stormwater Management Manual for Eastern Washington* in 2010.

On smaller projects (homes, small commercial, etc.), the entrance is usually located where the future driveway is going to be built. The driveway is then graveled and compacted. However, all traffic off the site needs to use the driveway as their egress point. Many residential construction sites continue to be problematic with respect to tracking of mud and dirt onto streets because the entire curb line is used as an egress point and/or not enough gravel is used. In anticipation of building during wet conditions, some contractors have graveled more than just the driveway in an effort to keep workers from getting bogged down in the mud. The primary goal may not be erosion control, but it serves both purposes.

Whether large or small, properly installing and using a stabilized construction access can be an effective way to keep sediment from leaving your job site.

Update on Greg Colvig

As many of you know I have been moving back and forth from Pullman to Seattle since September in order to receive cancer treatment. My wife, Virginia, and I are extremely grateful and overwhelmed by the prayers, cards, letters, e-mails, phone messages and other support we have received from the Pullman /Moscow area.

We cannot thank you enough.

The progress towards a bone marrow transplant was slowed down by infections, viruses, the inability to produce stem cells and **10 inches** of snow in Seattle.

On January 13th and 14th I produced enough stem cells to move forward with the transplant. Now the pre-treatment and bone marrow transplant is tentatively scheduled for the first week of February. This process is expected to include two weeks in the U.W. Hospital, followed by four weeks of out-patient recovery at the Seattle Cancer Care Alliance.

God bless and thank you all for your love and support.

Greg Colvig

