



BUILDING DIVISION REQUIREMENTS

All eating and drinking establishments listed in Standard Industrial Classification Major Group 58 and North American Industry Classification System Sector 72, are required to install and maintain appropriate grease interceptor (hydro-mechanical or gravity). (CPC 1014.0)

Following are the definitions of the two types of grease removal devices and general requirements for permit applications and sizing criteria based on the 2022 California Plumbing Code. This brochure is intended to provide general information, contact the Building Safety Division for any questions or additional information.

DEFINITIONS (CPC Chapter 2)

Hydro-mechanical Grease Interceptor is a plumbing appurtenance or appliance that is installed in a sanitary drainage system to intercept non-petroleum fats, oil, and grease (FOG) from a wastewater discharge and is identified by flow rate, and separation and retention efficiency. The design incorporates air entrainment, hydro-mechanical separation, interior baffling, and/or barriers in combination or separately, and one of the following:

- A - External flow control, with air intake (vent): directly connected
- B - External flow control, without air intake (vent): directly connected
- C - Without external flow control, directly connected
- D - Without external flow control, indirectly connected

[These interceptors comply with the requirements of Table 1014.2.1] Hydromechanical grease interceptors are generally installed inside.

Gravity Grease Interceptor is a plumbing appurtenance or appliance that is installed in a sanitary drainage system to intercept nonpetroleum fats, oils, and greases (FOG) from a wastewater discharge and is identified by volume, thirty (30) minute retention time, baffle(s), not less than two (2) compartments, a total volume of not less than three-hundred (300) gallons, and gravity separation. [These interceptors comply with the requirements of Chapter 10 or are designed by a registered professional engineer.] Gravity grease interceptors are generally installed outside.

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS FOR PERMIT APPLICATIONS AND SIZING CRITERIA

- A complete plumbing plan showing food preparation and cleaning areas (including sinks, dishwashers, janitorial sinks and mat cleaning areas). Also, show which fixtures are plumbed to the grease removal device and which fixtures discharge directly to the sanitary sewer.
- The plans should also include proper sizing of the hydro-mechanical grease interceptor or gravity grease interceptor, including:
 - Sizing calculations that determine the size of the gravity grease interceptor. (CPC 1014)
 - The gravity grease interceptor must be designed and sized to comply with Sunnyvale Municipal Code 12.12.120 "Local Limits for Wastewater" of 300 mg/L, by weight, of fat, oil, or grease of animal or vegetable origin.
 - Gravity grease interceptors shall provide a sample point after treatment. The sample point

must be located after the interceptor and before discharge to the sanitary sewer system. A sample of the wastewater discharge may be collected by the City's Pretreatment Program staff.

- Following are examples of the types of fixtures that must be plumbed to a hyrdo-mechanical grease interceptor:
 - Tri-well sinks
 - Pot and mop sinks used in food preparation
 - In some cases, floor sinks and floor drains
 - A dishwasher may not be plumbed to a grease removal device unless specifically designed to receive wastewater from a dishwasher. Approval by the Building Division is required for any dishwasher to be plumbed to a grease removal device.

PERMIT PROCESS

1. Prior to submittal for a building permit, contact the Planning Division to determine if a separate permit is required.

Building Permit Review

2. Building permit review and issuance is available online [E-OneStop Online Services](#).

Inspections

3. A minimum of two inspections are required, a rough plumbing and a final inspection. Depending on the scope of work, additional inspections may be required. The inspections requirement will be determined when the building permit is issued.

Building Permit Application Requirements

- ☐ A completed Building and Fire Permit application (available online at Sunnyvale.ca.gov - Search "Applications, Fees and Forms")
- ☐ Complete set of digital plans including the information described in this handout.
- ☐ If additional improvements/remodeling is made to the tenant space, additional plan and permit requirements will be required.
- ☐ Fee _____