



Power-Operated Grease Removal Devices

Why a power device is different from other grease removal devices

A power device is different from a standard grease trap or interceptor because a power device operates mechanically—automatically skimming floating grease into a storage area. A grease trap or interceptor operates passively—relying on the baffles and pipe arrangement in the device to keep the floating grease out of sewer lines. The maintenance needs for a power device are different from those of standard grease traps or grease interceptors.

Note:

Dishwasher or garbage grinder wastewaters are **never** approved for discharge through a power device.

Because power devices have moving parts, they are subject to mechanical breakdowns. Periodic maintenance is critical to keep the power device in good operating condition at all times. Unless you have the right replacement parts and expertise on-site to fix any mechanical failures, it is recommended that you have an ongoing maintenance contract to service your power device.

Power devices are generally only approved for a few applications. If you currently have a power device in place at your food service facility that was not approved by the City of Milpitas as part of the wastewater plan check process,

you need to contact the Milpitas building department to obtain a plumbing permit or installation approval. Questions about approved grease removal devices can be answered by calling (408) 586-2600.

The following documentation must be kept on-site in an easily accessible location and made available for inspection upon request by local officials:

- **Maintenance logs for grease collection and removal**, including date/time, person, and company providing the service, kept on-site for at least three years.
- **Maintenance logs for repairs or preventative maintenance**, kept on-site for at least three years.
- **Operating manual, invoices, and maintenance contract** for the power device, *including emergency service contact phone number*.
- **Maintenance logs of solid's trap** associated with power device, where applicable.

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Tips on cleaning frequency

- It is important to clean your power device regularly to prevent fats, oil and grease in water discharged to the sewer from either:
 - Exceeding the discharge limit of 150 parts per million.
 - Causing visible floating grease or grease deposits in the piping downstream from the power device. If you can see floating grease or grease deposits in a cleanout or discharge pipe 'downstream' of the power device, you need to increase the service frequency.
 - Causing blockages or overflow into your establishment, or to the environment.

Minimum cleaning frequency

You must, at a minimum, follow the manufacturer's recommended maintenance procedures and cleaning frequencies. However, you will have to maintain and clean more often if needed to keep the power device in proper working condition.

Remember to set an appropriate cleaning frequency for any solids trap in-line with the power device.

SAN JOSE/SANTA CLARA
WATER POLLUTION
CONTROL PLANT
(408) 945-3000

Tributary agencies served by the treatment plant: San José, Santa Clara, Milpitas, Cupertino Sanitary District, West Valley Sanitation District (including Campbell, Los Gatos, Monte Sereno, Saratoga), County Sanitation Districts 2-3, Sunol & Burbank Sanitary Districts.



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, City of Milpitas Department of Public Works materials can be made available upon request in alternative formats, such as Braille, large print, audiotape or computer disk. Requests may be made by calling (408) 586-2600 (voice) or (800) 735-2929 (California Relay Service).