

# Grease Traps & Catering

Blockages to the sewerage system can cause drains and sewers to overflow, flooding roads, gardens and buildings with sewerage.

One major cause of blockages is the build-up of fat disposed of into the sewers from restaurants, takeaways and public houses.

If the blockage is in a public sewer and the cause is from a restaurant, takeaway or business, then they may be liable for the cost of clearance. They also may be liable for prosecution under the Water Industry Act 1991.

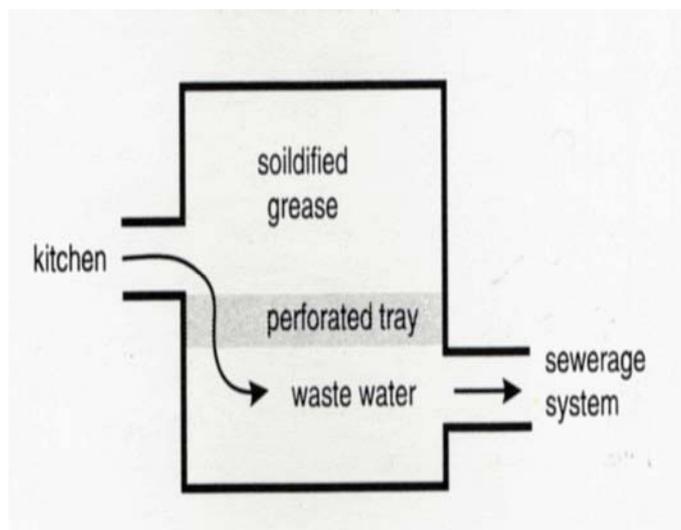
## How you can help your kitchen to clean up its act.

- Install a grease trap
- Fit baskets on floor drains
- Put waste food into a dustbin
- Collect oil and grease, store it and have it collected by a licensed waste contractor.

## What is a Grease Trap

Catering establishments should have a grease trap installed to prevent fats going into the sewerage system. A grease trap is usually located in the drains at the end of the kitchen waste pipe.

The diagram below shows how a grease trap works:



When sink waste enters the grease trap, the large volume of water held in it solidifies the grease. The solid fat accumulates above the perforated tray through which the waste water has to go to reach the sewer.

If you have a waste disposal unit the size of the tank required is even larger.

### **Maintaining a Grease Trap**

Grease traps must be properly maintained to avoid fat blocking the trap or escaping into the drains.

Traps are maintained by simply emptying the container that catches the fat as soon as it is full.

Traps will need emptying at different times depending on the size and amount of fat and grease that goes into them, it is recommended that they should be checked every week.

### **For further information contact:**

Wessex Water plc. Tel: 0845 600 4600 or

Environmental Protection Section Tel: **01454 868001**

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