



# TOWN OF MOORESVILLE

## DEPARTMENTAL POLICY/SOP

**Title: Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)**

**Staff Affected: Public Utilities Department,  
Citizens of Mooresville**

**References: Town of Mooresville Sewer Use  
Ordinance**

**Approved By:**

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**Department Head**

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**Town Manager**

**Approved:** 2/9/2024 | 10:28 AM EST

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**Rescinds: None**

**Policy Index #: DP-PU-002**

### 1.0 SUPPLEMENTS

None.

### 2.0 DEFINITIONS

Access: The Town of Mooresville must be allowed entry in order to inspect manifest documentation of cleaning and/or pumping and entry to any area of a grease contributing facility. Regular inspections will be performed during normal business hours (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday - Friday); however, access shall be granted at any time as needed. Manifest documentation is required to be kept for three (3) years and must be available to town personnel for review upon inspection.

Fats, Oils, and Grease ("FOG"): Organic polar compounds derived from the animal and/or plant sources that contain multiple carbon chain triglyceride, molecules, or any other glycerides or synthetics. These substances are detectable and measurable using analytical test procedures established in 40 CFR Part 136.

FOG Effluent Sample: Representative grab sample of wastewater effluent sample taken according to 40 CFR Part 136 at the outlet of a FOG interceptor for the purpose of analysis for various pollutants of concern as defined in the Town of Mooresville's Sewer Use Ordinance.

FOG Interceptor: Grease trap, grease interceptor, and/or oil/water separator.

FOG Team: The Town of Mooresville public services staff as delegated by the Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager to be responsible for administering and enforcing the Fats, Oils, and Grease Policy.

Grease Trap: Devices for the separation and retention of waterborne fats, oils, and grease from the effluent of grease contributing facilities.

Grease Contributing Facilities: Any person(s), business, industrial or institutional entity that contributes, causes, or discharges FOG into the collection system of the POTW.

Oil/Water Separator: An in-line device used to remove oils, grease, and immiscible solids from industrial/commercial process wastewater.

POTW: Publicly Owned Treatment Works (including collection system).

Responsible Party: The responsible party shall be considered to be the owner, operator, or lessee (i.e., the permitted user) who is held responsible for proper installation and/or operation of a FOG interceptor for the purpose of complying with the Town of Mooresville's FOG Policy.

Technically Defensible Calculation(s): Grease separation device sizing options as approved by the Town of Mooresville Wastewater Treatment Plant Manager or designated representative.

User: The party responsible who is deemed to be any person(s) managing or operating a business, industrial or institutional entity that contributes, causes, or discharges wastewater in to the POTW.

Pumping: The Town of Mooresville has a pump dry policy. There will be absolutely no re-entering of any liquid or solid materials at any time.

Approved Pumper/Hauler: A list of approved pumpers/haulers will be provided by the FOG team upon inspection of the FOG interceptor of any new business or upon the change of ownership of an existing business.

Variance for Cause Request: Submittal provided by a current or potential FOG contributing facility to provide site-specific technical information to demonstrate why the required FOG interceptor is not feasible, practical, and/or necessary for a particular use, activity and/or structure.

### 3.0 **POLICY**

The Town of Mooresville, in order to comply with all applicable State and Federal laws, has developed a "Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG) Policy", designed to provide uniform requirements for commercial and/or industrial establishments that discharge FOG within our collection system. This policy requires all FOG producing establishments discharging wastewater into the Town's sanitary sewer system to install and maintain a grease trap or grease interceptor. All grease trap and grease interceptors shall be maintained for continuous, satisfactory, and effective operation by the owner, leaseholder, or operator at his expense.

The scope of this policy is to enable the Town of Mooresville to:

- Monitor and control FOG discharges
- Implement and enforce discharge rules outlined within the policy
- Prevent accumulations of FOG into the sanitary sewer collection system
- Decrease the number of blockages and sanitary sewer overflows (SSO) caused by FOG accumulations
- Provide an educational program for both residential and commercial users
- Maintain State and Federal compliance, specifically regarding The Town of Mooresville's Wastewater Collection System Permit [WQCS00043].

The overall goal of this program is to prevent the excessive introduction of FOG into the sanitary sewer system and to prevent it from reaching our wastewater treatment plant. Excessive buildup of FOG at critical areas of the sanitary sewer lines increases the potential to create sewer blockages. A sanitary sewer blockage can result in a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO), which could reach the surface waters of

North Carolina. The Town of Mooresville is required to track and report the cause and environmental impact of an SSO to the North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Blockages may also cause wastewater to back up into homes, businesses, or streets and can result in extensive property or environmental damage. Our goal is to limit sewer blockages and prevent any sanitary sewer overflows.

This policy is established under the authority of the Town of Mooresville's Sewer Use Ordinance, as provided under Section 1 - General Provisions, specifically sections:

1.1(a) *To prevent the introduction of pollutants into the municipal wastewater system which will interfere with the operation of the system or contaminate the resulting sludge*

1.1(b) *To prevent the introduction of pollutants into the municipal wastewater system which will pass through the system, inadequately treated, into any waters of the State or otherwise be incompatible with the system.*

This policy may be modified or changed by the Town of Mooresville at any time in accordance with the requirements of the City Code, North Carolina General Statute, and Federal Regulations.

### **3.1 New Facility**

- 3.1.1 All new grease contributing facilities must notify the Town of Mooresville FOG team prior to opening for business to receive approval for the proper sizing and installation of the grease interceptor.
- 3.1.2 The Town of Mooresville requires a minimum size of a 1,000-gallon outside grease interceptor be properly installed with inlet tee (12 inches below surface) and outlet tee (2/3 depth). Some facilities may not need this large of an interceptor; however, this basic FOG infrastructure must be in place for the event of expansion or a change in operations. Some facilities may require a larger grease interceptor; for this reason, the Town of Mooresville is requiring technically defensible calculation(s) be provided to support the proper sizing of the grease interceptor.

### **3.2 Existing Facility**

- 3.2.1 For grease contributing facilities planning to commence business activities in an existing facility, the Town of Mooresville must be notified in advance for verification of proper infrastructure and FOG disposal procedures. However, if the Town of Mooresville deems it necessary after a technical evaluation, the responsible party may be required to increase the FOG interceptor capacity.
- 3.2.2 Prior to the commencement of business activities in an existing facility, the FOG interceptor shall be pumped dry by an approved pumper/hauler.
- 3.2.3 The Town of Mooresville must formally approve a new grease contributing facility that is opening for business in an existing facility to verify infrastructure requirements are being met for proper FOG disposal.

### 3.3 Users of Oil/Water Separators

- 3.3.1 Facilities such as automotive repair shops, race shops, etc. with oil storage vessels in proximity to drains connected to the POTW must have approved spill protection.
- 3.3.2 Since sampling will be difficult, dischargers of wastewater to the POTW from oil/water separators may be required to take additional actions based upon effluent pollutant analysis. These facilities are required to comply with the general guidelines as listed for all FOG contributing facilities.
- 3.3.3 Dischargers of wastewater to the POTW from oil/water separators will be assessed an annual permit fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00).
- 3.3.4 The FOG team reserves the right to inspect oil/water separators, review manifests, and sample effluent as provided above (see "Access" under Section 2.0 above).

### 3.4 General Guidelines for All FOG Contributing Facilities

#### 3.4.1 FOG Interceptor Pumping & Cleaning Requirements

##### 3.4.1.1 Schedule & Frequency

- All grease traps, FOG interceptors and/or oil/water separators shall be pumped on a scheduled frequency set by the FOG team, to maintain compliance with this Policy. This schedule may require periodic adjustments in order to meet all requirements set forth within the Enforcement Section of this policy.
- All facilities with an **outdoor/in-ground** FOG interceptor of 1,000 gallons or greater, shall maintain a pump & clean schedule of at least quarterly by an approved Pumper/Hauler.
- All facilities with an **indoor/in-floor** FOG interceptor shall maintain a pump & clean schedule of at least monthly by an approved Pumper/Hauler.
- Existing facilities with an **under the sink** FOG interceptor shall maintain a pump & clean schedule of at least weekly by an approved Pumper/Hauler.

##### 3.4.1.2 Approval

- All new FOG contributing facilities must notify the Town of Mooresville's FOG team prior to opening for business to receive approval for the proper sizing and installation of the FOG Interceptor.
- All FOG contributing facilities shall have grease trap(s), FOG interceptor(s), and/or oil/water separator(s) approved by the Town of Mooresville. Interceptor design, construction and installation are all subject to final approval by the FOG team.

##### 3.4.1.3 Inspections/Records

- All new and existing FOG contributing facilities discharging wastewater to the POTW shall grant access to the Town of Mooresville's FOG team for regular inspections of grease interceptors and/or oil/water separators as provided above (see "Access" under Definitions Section above).
- The Town of Mooresville must be allowed access for inspection of manifest documentation and device(s) at all times (see "Access" in Definitions Section above).

- Pumping, service and maintenance manifest documentation must be readily accessible for review by the FOG team during inspections for a period of three (3) years.

#### 3.4.1.4 Other

- Any establishment found in violation of this Policy (i.e., manifests are not readily accessible for review and/or incomplete pumping, etc.) will be subject to enforcement actions as established in the Town of Mooresville's *Sewer Use Ordinance* and defined in the *Enforcement Response Plan*.
- The introduction of enzymes in a grease interceptor is prohibited unless pre-approved in writing by the FOG team. Solvents and surfactants or any other substances used for maintenance of drain lines are also prohibited unless pre-approved in writing by the FOG team.

#### 3.4.2 Annual Permit Fee

All FOG contributing facilities will be assessed an annual permit fee of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). This municipal fee will help offset sampling and analysis (as needed), administrative duties, personnel, travel/vehicle expense, etc.

### 3.5 FOG Enforcement

3.5.1 Any FOG contributing facility that is not in compliance with the Town of Mooresville's FOG Policy and/or Sewer Use Ordinance will be subject to enforcement actions as established in the Town of Mooresville's *Enforcement Response Plan*.

3.4.2 The Town of Mooresville will enforce regulations for all grease contributing facilities according to the following guidelines:

3.4.2.1 FOG interceptor effluent will be inspected and sampled to verify infrastructural capability for maintaining compliance with the SUO local limit of 25% capacity. The effluent inspection will be taken during normal business operations (if possible).

3.4.2.2 The resulting FOG effluent inspection data as analyzed and reported by the Pretreatment Staff will be used as a basis for enforcement measures as follows:

- For values less than 25% capacity no enforcement needed.
- For values greater than 25% capacity, a meeting with the manager or responsible party will be required to inspect pumping records, inform them that they are in non-compliance, and set a date to have the FOG interceptor cleaned/pumped dry by an approved pumper/hauler.
- If the responsible party fails to have the FOG interceptor cleaned/pumped dry by the set date, a **notice of non-compliance** will be issued, and he/she will be required to perform an immediate pumping of the FOG interceptor and pumping schedule re-evaluated.
- If the responsible party fails to have the FOG interceptor cleaned/pumped dry after the **notice of non-compliance** is issued, a **notice of violation** will be issued and a fine of **\$250.00** (Two Hundred Fifty Dollars) will be assessed.
- If the responsible party fails to have the FOG interceptor cleaned/pumped dry after the **notice of violation** is issued, a fine of **\$500.00** (Five Hundred

Dollars) will be assessed. These fines will continue to increase until the responsible party complies with the **notice of violation**.

- The Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent has the authority to rescind any penalty if the grease contributing facility achieves compliance with the FOG Ordinance and/or specifications provided under the SUO.

#### **4.0 ATTACHMENTS**

None.