

TOWN of BOWLING GREEN

ORDINANCE No. _____

ESTABLISHING WASTEWATER REGULATIONS RELATED TO FATS, OILS, AND GREASE

Whereas, the Town of Bowling Green Virginia owns and operates drinking water and sanitary sewer systems for the Town, its businesses and residents; and

Whereas, these necessary public services require ongoing investment and maintenance as well as continual oversight and administration; and

Whereas, pursuant to power granted by state law (Va. Code § 15.2-2119), the Town has authority to regulate sewage collection, treatment or disposal service; and

Whereas, pursuant to Town Code Article VI Utilities, §1, Town Council has authority to make reasonable rules and regulations promoting the purity of its water supply and for protecting the same from pollution, and the authority to establish, construct, and maintain sanitary sewers, sewer lines and systems; and

Whereas, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-2122, the Town has the authority to establish standards for the use and services of sanitary, combined and stormwater sewer systems, treatment works and appurtenances operated and maintained by any locality, including but not limited to implementation of applicable pretreatment requirements pursuant to the State Water Control Law (§ [62.1-44.2](#) et seq.) and the federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.). Such sewer use standards may be implemented by ordinance, regulation, permit or contract of the locality, where applicable; and

Whereas, the Town's water and sewer regulations are set forth in Chapter 5: Public Facilities (Article 5.02 et seq.) of the Town Code; and

Whereas, pursuant to Va. Code § 15.2-2122, the Town may, by ordinance, establish a uniform schedule of civil penalties for violations of fats, oils, and grease standards; infiltration and inflow standards; and other specified provisions of any ordinance (other than industrial pretreatment requirements of the State Water Control Law (§ [62.1-44.2](#) et seq.) or federal Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.); and

Whereas, upon the advisement of the Town's licensed wastewater facilities operator and the recommendation from the Town Manager, after careful consideration, the Town Council deems it to be in the best interests and general welfare of its citizens and businesses to adopt wastewater rules and regulations related to fats, oils, and grease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE BOWLING GREEN TOWN COUNCIL THAT THE TOWN WASTEWATER REGULATIONS AS SET OUT IN TOWN CODE ARE HEREBY AMENDED BY ADDING THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS:

CHAPTER 5
ARTICLE 5.03
GREASE, OIL AND GRIT INTERCEPTORS

§ 5.03.010 Purpose

It is the duty of the Town to prevent the introduction of excessive grease, oil, grit, and other substances harmful or hazardous to the wastewater system and wastewater treatment plant. This Article is designed to implement and ensure compliance with applicable local, state, or federal rules and regulations.

Accumulations of grease, oil, sand, rags, string, and other harmful substances and materials within the sewer lines increase the potential to cause sewer blockages that, in turn, can cause overflows that degrade the quality of local surface waters and can cause sewer back-up into businesses or homes, which may cause extensive damage.

§ 5.03.020 Applicability

Any user of the Town wastewater system, including businesses, institutions, or establishments engaged in food preparation and service, where fats, oil and grease may be discharged into a public sewer, shall install, operate, maintain, and repair a grease interceptor, waste oil collection device, or other applicable pretreatment unit solely at the user's expense. Any user where automobiles, trucks or equipment are serviced or maintained, including but not limited to: car washes, service centers, repair shops, detailing centers, garages and any other facility where grease, oil, or grit may be discharged into the public sewer shall install, operate, maintain, and repair a grease/grit interceptor or other pretreatment unit solely at the user's expense.

Newly constructed businesses where grease, oil, sand, rags, string, and other harmful substances and material may be discharged into the Town wastewater system, shall install, operate, maintain and repair a grease/grit interceptor, waste oil collection device or other applicable pretreatment unit solely at the user's expense when necessary for the proper handling of wastes prior to the issuance of an occupancy permit.

Food and automobile facilities existing prior to the date of this Article shall be permitted to operate and maintain an existing grease/oil/grit interceptor provided such units are in good operating conditions, as determined by the Town Manager. The Town Manager will require an existing facility to install a new grease/oil/grit interceptor that complies with the requirements of the State of Virginia Plumbing Code, as amended, or to modify or repair any noncompliant plumbing or existing grease/oil/grit interceptor when any of the following conditions exist, at the determination of the Town Manager:

1. The facility is found to be contributing grease/oil/grit in quantities sufficient to cause line stoppages or necessitate increased maintenance on the wastewater collection system.

2. The facility does not have a grease/oil/grit interceptor.
3. The facility has an irreparable or defective grease/oil/grit interceptor.
4. Remodeling of the food preparation or kitchen waste plumbing system is performed which requires a plumbing permit to be issued.
5. Remodeling of the automotive establishment plumbing system is performed which requires a plumbing permit to be issued.
6. The facility is sold or undergoes a change of ownership.
7. The facility has a change of use from one business to another business.
8. The facility does not have plumbing connections to a grease/oil/grit interceptor in compliance with the requirements of this Article. Existing food and automotive service businesses must comply with this Article within six (6) months after the effective date of this Article. Upon written application to the Town Council, this period may be extended up to three (3) additional months, if, in the opinion of the Town Council, it can be demonstrated that unique hardship conditions exist in implementing the program.

§ 5.03.030 Waivers

The Town Manager reserves the right to waive portions of this Article, including the Design, Sizing, Construction and Installation Requirements as identified in the Water & Sewer Supplemental Regulations, at his/her discretion. If a properly sized grease interceptor cannot be accommodated within the property of the existing establishments, a waiver may be requested from the Town Manager. For existing establishments, the establishment shall demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Town Manager that the installation of a grease interceptor would be unfeasible and/or would cause an undue hardship in the utilization of the building as a food service establishment. The establishment seeking the waiver shall submit a written request to the Town Manager detailing the reasons and issues supporting the waiver request. The establishment will still be required to comply with all other provisions of this Article. A waiver shall not relieve the establishment of the requirement to use waste oil barrels to dispose of waste cooking grease. For any establishment granted a waiver that fails to comply with provisions of this Article, the Town reserves the right to require the establishment to install a grease interceptor or pay fees for noncompliance, as well as terminate service.

§ 5.03.040 Exceptions

Exceptions to the requirement to install a grease interceptor shall be allowed under the following conditions:

1. Establishments that use disposable service ware and have less than twenty-five (25) seats will not be required to install a grease interceptor. This exception does not apply to commercial kitchens. The establishment shall write a letter to the Town Manager stating fixtures, seat counts and certifying usage of disposable service ware and stating they shall comply

with all provisions of this Article.

2. A single-family residence shall not be required to install a grease interceptor unless such residence has been converted for commercial food preparation use.
3. Single service kitchens with no food preparation (heat and serve only), and which use only disposable service ware, will not be required to install a grease interceptor. The establishment will be required to submit a letter to the Town Manager stating the number of fixtures, seat count, and certify usage of disposable service ware, and shall comply with all of the other provisions of this Article.

§ 5.03.040 Design, Sizing, Construction and Installation of Pretreatment Devices

All pre-treatment devices shall comply with the Town's design, sizing, construction, and installation requirements, as set forth in the Town Code or any Water & Sewer Supplemental Regulations adopted by the Town Council.

§ 5.03.050 User Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of the user to ensure compliance with the Town's discharge limitations as specified in this Ordinance.
2. Hazardous wastes, such as acids, strong cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, paint solvents, or gasoline, must not be disposed of in such a manner as to pass through the grease/grit interceptor.
3. Commercial dishwashers that use detergents and elevated water temperatures that will melt grease must be designed to prevent grease from passing through the grease interceptor and into the collection system.
4. Enzymes, solvents, and emulsifiers that can change the form of grease, allowing it to be carried out of the interceptor and deposited in the treatment works are not permitted to be discharged through a grease interceptor. Biological treatment systems must be pre-approved by the Town Manager.
5. Where fats, oil and grease are by-products of food preparation and/or cleanup, reasonable efforts shall be made to separate waste fats, oil and grease into a separate container for proper disposal. Such waste must be disposed of in containers provided by grease rendering companies for recycling or disposal by a water hauler. Collection containers must be present on the property at all times. Access to such containers should be limited to employees and haulers only. Containers should be labeled to include the facility's name and hauler information.

§ 5.03.060 Maintenance of Pretreatment Devices

The user is responsible for maintaining grease interceptors in a continuous, satisfactory, and effective operation as prescribed in the Plumbing Code, including inspecting the interceptor, making repairs, and adding additional apparatus if necessary. The user must have the grease/grit interceptor serviced, including pumping, cleaning, and inspection, by a waste hauler at a minimum of every ninety (90) days. More frequent service may be required depending on the volume of discharged waste. In addition, grease traps must be serviced by the food establishment's staff at a minimum of weekly intervals. Maintenance shall include the complete removal of all contents, including floatable materials, wastewater, sludge, and solids. Separation, decanting, or back flushing of the interceptor or its wastes is prohibited. Maintenance of interceptors with grease or solids accumulation shall not exceed twenty-five percent (25%) of the total operating hydraulic depth of the interceptor. No interceptor waste shall be discharged directly into the treatment works.

§ 5.03.070 Inspections

The Town may conduct mandatory inspections at a minimum of once a year and at other times as the Town deems necessary, at its sole discretion. All establishments shall be open and available to inspections at all times during normal business hours. If grease or grit is responsible for a sewer blockage, inspections of all upstream food service and automotive service establishments will be conducted. Access to all interceptors shall be maintained in a manner that is free and open to inspection at all times.

§ 5.03.080 Maintenance Records for Pretreatment Devices

The user of the grease/grit interceptor shall be required to maintain cleaning and maintenance records. Cleaning records shall include at a minimum the date and time the cleaning is performed, the volume removed and the initials of the individual who performed the cleaning. Maintenance records shall include the type of maintenance performed, the date and time performed, and the initials of the individual who performed the maintenance. Invoices for contracted services shall be maintained and kept with maintenance records. All cleaning and maintenance records shall be maintained for a minimum of five (5) years.

§ 5.03.090 Prohibitions and Violations

No user shall contribute or cause to be contributed into the sanitary sewer system the following:

1. Hot water running continuously through a grease interceptor.

2. Discharge of concentrated alkaline or acidic solutions.
3. Discharge of concentrated detergents, emulsifiers, de-emulsifiers, surface active agents, enzymes, degreasers, solvents or any type of product that will liquefy grease interceptor wastes.
4. Discharge of any substance that may cause excessive foaming in the sanitary sewer system.
5. Discharge of pure waste fats, oils, and grease directly into an interceptor from a pan, vat, pot, or any similar device.
6. Discharge of any substance capable of passing the solid or semi-solid contents of the grease interceptor to the treatment works.
7. Discharge of any hazardous waste, including concentrated cleaners, pesticides, herbicides, paints, solvents, gasoline, or other petroleum products.

It shall be a violation of this program for any person to:

1. Modify an interceptor without consent from the Town Manager.
2. Falsify maintenance or design records.
3. Not provide maintenance or design records.
4. Discharge toilets, urinals, and other similar fixtures through a grease interceptor.

§ 5.03.100 Violations and Enforcement

Whenever the Town finds that any user has violated this Article, the Town may serve upon the user a written notice stating the nature of the violation. Within thirty (30) days of said notice, a plan for the satisfactory correction of the violation shall be submitted to the Town. All costs incurred by the Town for cleaning sewers downstream of a device failing to meet the Town’s Sewer Ordinance shall be billed to the account of the customer causing the obstruction.

In addition, fines shall be imposed as identified below:

<i>VIOLATIONS</i>	<i>1st Offense</i>	<i>2nd Offense (Within a 12 month period)</i>	<i>3rd Offense (Within a two- Year period)</i>	<i>Fourth & Subsequent Offense (Not to Exceed from the same operative set of facts)</i>
-Failure to Maintain On-Site Records; -Inspection Hindrance (equipment related); -Failure to Properly Clean Interceptor (excess of 25% full)	Warning Letter	\$100	\$150	\$3,000

-Interceptors in Excess of 75% Full; - Failure to Maintain Interceptor Other than Cleaning - Falsification of Maintenance or Cleaning Records and Noncompliance with Policy and Program (Criminal misdemeanor charges may also be filed)	Warning Letter	\$100	\$150	\$3,000 termination of service	+
Source of Sewer Blockage	Warning Letter & Clean up Costs	\$100 + Clean up Costs	\$150 + Clean up Costs	\$3,000 + Clean Up Costs + Termination of Service	
Refusal for Inspection	Termination of Service				

This ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WASTEWATER REGULATIONS RELATED TO FATS, OIL AND GREASE was approved this ____ day of _____ 2026, by the Town Council of the Town of Bowling Green, Virginia.

By: _____
Hon. Tina Gambill, Mayor

Attest:

India Adams-Jacobs, Town Manager/ Clerk of the Council