

How to Safely Dispose of Wastewater to the Sanitary Sewer for Food Carts and Cart Pods

Wastewater from food preparation contains high levels of fats, oils, and grease, also called FOG. City code requires that wastewater containing fats, oils, and grease be disposed down a drain that is connected to a grease interceptor. The grease interceptor removes the fats, oils, and grease from the water before allowing it to flow into the sewer system.

If not removed, fats, oils, and grease can cause sewer blockages and backups. Sewer backups can threaten public health and the environment and cause damage to property. As a result, backups resulting from fats, oils, and grease can lead to enforcement with monetary penalties to property or business owners.

What are the roles of the City and State?

The City of Portland Bureau of Environmental Services establishes requirements for connection and wastewater discharges to the sanitary sewer system. City development standards for food cart pods, which is defined as two food carts or more, are outlined in the City's [Source Control Manual](#).

In 2023, the Oregon Health Authority prohibited the use of aboveground graywater (wastewater) storage totes. Carts and cart pods that would like to now connect to the City sewer system must follow development standards outlined in the manual. Below is a summary of the process.

How to connect a cart pod to the sewer system

1. Research your property's sewer potential.

Use [Portland Maps](#) to determine if sewer is available to the property and if a sewer stub or lateral exists. Or, request onsite [sewer records](#) through the Bureau of Development Services (BDS).

2. Review the [Source Control Manual](#).

Develop a site plan for the pod that includes proposed plumbing, dump stations, grease interceptor, and trash enclosure (see figures on back). Grease interceptors greater than 500 gallons also trigger [Environmental Services Administrative Rules – ENB-4.35 Monitoring Access Structure](#) requirements.

3. Apply for a [BDS development permit](#).

4. [Submit the application](#) to Development Review online.

- Environmental Services Plan Review will review the application using Source Control Manual requirements. Before submitting an application, you can request up to 15 half-hour appointments with a reviewer to address questions.
- Each cart dump station is assessed a system development charge (SDC). For FY 2022-23 the charge is \$4,979.40. [See current SDCs](#). **Continue on back**



DUMP STATION (WITH LID)

Food cart pods seeking a solution to wastewater disposal can install a dump station and connection to the sanitary sewer. Learn more about the process to connect.



Find this information on the web at portland.gov/bes/connect-cart-pod

QUESTIONS?

Environmental Services Plan Review

For Source Control Manual or plan review process questions
503-823-7122
BESDevelopmentReview@portlandoregon.gov

Bureau of Development Services

For sewer records, BDS permitting, and trade permit questions
503-823-7300
bds@portlandoregon.gov

Environmental Services Cut Through the FOG

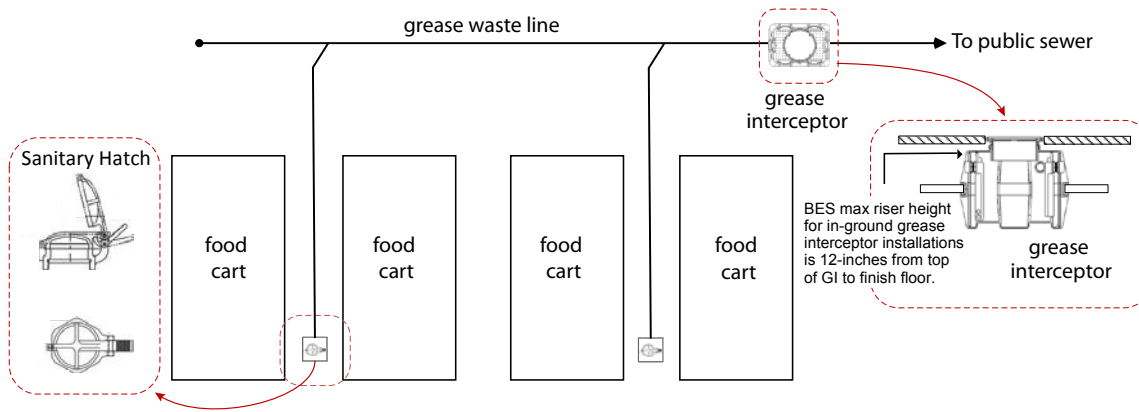
For questions about the City's fats, oils, and grease program and grease interceptors
503-823-7093
cutfog@portlandoregon.gov



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
CITY OF PORTLAND

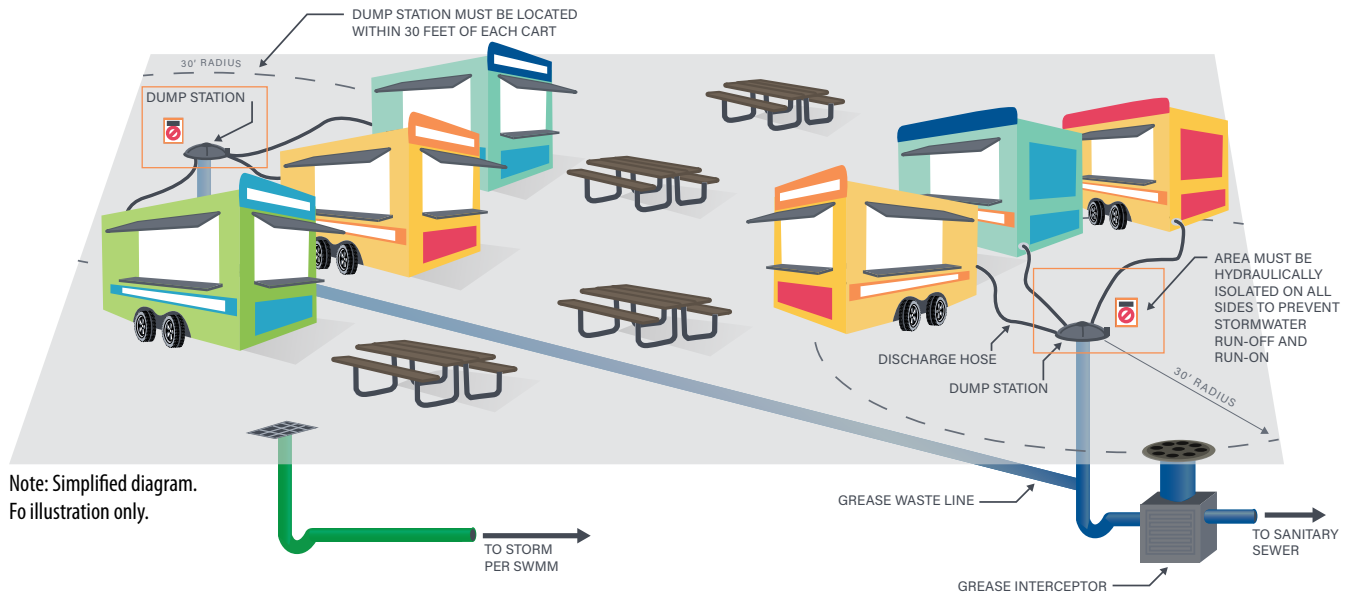
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Note: All plumbing installations are subject to Oregon Plumbing Specialty Code. Contact the Bureau of Development Services Commercial Plumbing for requirements.

Illustration of food cart pod with compliant sanitary sewer connection



Note: Simplified diagram. For illustration only.

What happens after you're connected?

- Food cart pod wastewater discharges are regulated by Portland City Code Title 17, subject to BES administrative rules related to grease interceptor maintenance and extra strength sewer charges. Find more information at portland.gov/bes/fog.
- It is recommended that you use a [Preferred Pumper](#) to maintain your grease interceptor. Preferred Pumpers will perform all required notifications of maintenance to the City's FOG Program.

Find the related code, rules, and regulations

The Clean Water Act requires the City to set rules and regulations to protect the city's sewer and stormwater systems and Portland's rivers and streams. Environmental Services works with Portland businesses to prevent pollution in order to protect public health, city workers, watersheds, infrastructure, fish and wildlife.

The City of Portland is committed to providing meaningful access. To request translation, interpretation, modifications, accommodations, or other auxiliary aids or services, contact 503-823-5600 or 311, for Relay Service & TTY: 711.

Traducción e Interpretación
Biên Dịch và Thông Dịch
अनुवादन तथा व्याख्य
口笔译服务

Устный и письменный перевод
Turjumaad iyo Fasiraad
Письмовий і усний переклад
Traducere și interpretariat
Chiaku me Awewen Kapas
**Translation and Interpretation:
503-823-5600**



Source Control Manual
portland.gov/bes/scm



Portland City Code
Title 17 Public Improvements
portland.gov/code/17



ENB 4.26 –Fats, Oils and
Grease Removal Program
portland.gov/enb4-26