

FACT SHEET



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Grease Trap and Interceptor Wastes

Office of Land Quality – Solid Waste Permits

317-232-8603 • 800-451-6027

www.idem.IN.gov

100 N. Senate Ave., Indianapolis, IN 46204

Introduction:

The Septage Permitting Program evaluates and permits activities related to the pumping, hauling, transporting, storing, treating, and land applying of septage. Septage must be managed according to [IC 13-18-12](#) and the rules in [327 IAC 7.1](#) Water Pollution Control Division. Septage is defined in [IC 13-11-2-199.2](#) as human excreta, water, scum, sludge, sewage, incidental or accidental seepage from sewage disposal systems; retained contents of sewage holding tanks and portable sanitary unit; grease, fats, and retained wastes from grease traps or interceptors; human wastes carried in liquid from ordinary living processes.

Servicing or maintaining a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility or transporting wastewater from a publicly owned wastewater treatment facility are activities that do not require a person to obtain a permit from the Septage Permitting Program.

Grease Trap and Interceptor Wastes:

Grease includes the fats, oils, grease, (FOG) and retained wastes from grease traps or interceptors. A grease trap or grease interceptor is a plumbing device designed to be located between kitchen drain lines and sanitary sewer lines with the intent to capture FOG prior to flowing into the sewer. These plumbing devices are typically installed as close to the sources of the FOG as possible, such as kitchen sinks, floor drains, garbage disposal units, and washing stations. The device traps the FOG from wastewater by slowing down the flow of water, allowing it to cool and solidify, while the FOG floats to the surface. The trapped FOG is then removed and disposed of properly.

Large amounts of FOG can overwhelm a septic tank or treatment facility and cause blocks in drainpipes and back-ups in the sewer systems. Periodic removal of the wastes built up in a grease trap or interceptor is beneficial to the functionality and longevity of the sewage disposal system. A grease trap is designed to handle flow rates of 10-50 gallons per minute and in a low-pressure environment, while grease interceptors can accommodate flow rates greater than 50 gallons per minute and more suitable for a high-pressure environment.

IDEM's Role:

IDEM is responsible for protecting human health and the environment while providing for safe industrial, agricultural, commercial, and governmental operations vital to a prosperous economy, and oversees the requirements for the removal, transport, storage, treatment, and disposal of septage from sewage disposal systems. Copies of permitting and recordkeeping must be retained for five years and made available to representatives of the Commissioner for inspection.

Additional Information:

- All forms listed are available on the IDEM Agency Forms page: idem.IN.gov/forms/idem-agency-forms/#olq_septage
- To receive email or text updates every time IDEM posts new information, subscribe to IDEM updates at idem.IN.gov/pages/subscribe. Provide an email address or phone number.
- IDEM Virtual File Cabinet at vfc.idem.IN.gov/DocumentSearch.aspx
- For more information on regulations for septage, please visit IDEM's website at idem.IN.gov/waste/waste-industries/septage-management
- For questions and concerns, please contact Program Administrator Kate Garvey at 317-233-5552 or KRGarve@idem.IN.gov.