

PURPOSE OF THE PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

The purpose of the pretreatment program is to stop the introduction of pollutants into the wastewater collection and transmission system, which can cause damage to equipment and interfere with the wastewater treatment process. The program is important in preventing harm to workers, the public, and the environment. It also reduces damage to wastewater equipment.

WHAT IS PRETREATMENT?

Pretreatment is a requirement placed on some commercial and industrial wastewater customers that treat wastewater before discharging it to the wastewater collection system. For example, oil and grease interceptors or grease traps, oil/water separators, chemical neutralization, and sand interceptors are a few methods of pretreatment.

WHY IS PRETREATMENT REQUIRED?

To comply with Federal and State regulations and statutes. The program is administered through the Palm Beach County (PBC) Sewers and Sewage Disposal Ordinance, PBC Environmental Control Rule¹, and Palm Beach County Water Utilities Department (PBCWUD) Uniform Policies and Procedures (UPAP). The laws were enacted to protect human health and safety by limiting or prohibiting discharges to the collection system that are hazardous or potentially damaging to equipment.

WHEN DID THE PRETREATMENT PROGRAM BECOME EFFECTIVE?

The program became effective with the approval of the PBC Sewers and Sewage Disposal Ordinance (Chapter 27) by the PBC Board of County Commissioners in 1996. Florida's Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) mandated pretreatment programs in 1997.

WHAT ARE THE WASTEWATER LIMITS?

All businesses subject to the pretreatment program must comply with the approved local limits outlined in Chapter 5 of PBCWUD's Uniform Policies and Procedures and discharge limitations in Chapter 27. For customers with oil/grease interceptors, grease traps, and oil/water separators, the discharge from the pretreatment device must meet the following limits:

Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)

400 mg/L *or less in concentration*

Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

400 mg/L *or less in concentration*

Oil/Grease (OG)

100 mg/L *or less in concentration*

WHAT BUSINESSES ARE REQUIRED TO BE IN THE PRETREATMENT PROGRAM?

- ◆ Restaurants / Food Preparation Industries
- ◆ Hotels
- ◆ Hospitals
- ◆ Funeral Homes
- ◆ Metal Fabrication / Metal Shops
- ◆ Transportation Cleaning Facilities
- ◆ All Industrial Waste Producers

HOW WILL I KNOW IF MY DISCHARGE MEETS THE ESTABLISHED LIMITS?

Grease traps, grease interceptors, and oil/water separators are inspected and sampled every six months by PBCWUD. The sample will be analyzed to determine if the discharge meets the established limits.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF MY DISCHARGE DOES NOT MEET THE LIMITS?

A Wastewater Pretreatment Program Letter will be sent by email or mail to inform you that sampling result(s) from from the oil and grease interceptor have exceeded the allowable limit(s). The letter will state what limits failed and will allow thirty (30) days to take appropriate action, after which, a surcharge will be added to the utility bill. For industrial dischargers, this will be decided based on the permit issued by PBCWUD.

WHAT IF I HAVE MY PRETREATMENT DEVICE CLEANED AND TESTED AND MY DEVICE STILL FAILS?

💧 Apply Best Management Practices (BMPs) such as:

- Recycle or properly dispose of waste cooking oil.
- Educate and monitor staff to ensure proper disposal methods are being used.
- Install screens on all kitchen and floor drains.

💧 Re-evaluate the pretreatment device to assure proper capacity and treatment efficiency.

💧 Conduct frequent and thorough cleanings of the pretreatment device.



PRETREATMENT PROGRAM

Frequently Asked Questions

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WHAT IS A SURCHARGE?

A fee established to recover the cost of collecting, transporting, and treating higher-strength wastewater, and performing repairs. It will appear on the bill as an OGI Monthly Surcharge.

HOW IS THE SURCHARGE DETERMINED?

The surcharge is determined by:

- 💧 Utilizing laboratory test results from wastewater samples taken from the discharge of your pretreatment device.
- 💧 Your current water consumption.
- 💧 The established surcharge rates as listed in the UPAP.

WHAT APPROPRIATE ACTION MUST I TAKE IF MY PRETREATMENT DEVICE FAILS?

The following will be necessary:

1. Have your pretreatment device (grease trap) thoroughly cleaned.
2. Have an independent, certified laboratory obtain a sample from your pretreatment device and analyze it for the failed parameter(s) stated in the notification letter.
3. Forward a copy of the pretreatment device cleaning invoice and the laboratory test results to: pretreatment@pbcwater.com within 30 days of the date on the notification letter you've received.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CAN BE OBTAINED BY CONTACTING THE PRETREATMENT PROGRAM COORDINATOR:

EASTERN SERVICE AREA REPRESENTATIVE:

Office: (561) 493-6125

Email: Pretreatment@pbcwater.com

WESTERN SERVICE AREA REPRESENTATIVE

(Belle Glade, Pahokee, Canal Point & South Bay):

Office: (561) 493-6166

Email: Pretreatment@pbcwater.com

<https://discover.pbcgov.org/waterutilities/Pages/Pretreatment.aspx>



Follow link above or scan QR code for more info!