

# Grease Trap Cleaning Guide

Grease Trap maintenance is required on a weekly basis by the City of Escalon. It is important to clean your grease trap regularly to prevent fats, oil and grease (FOG) from mixing with water that is discharged to the sewer. Please follow the below guidelines when performing the grease trap maintenance.

1. Carefully remove the lid of the grease trap without damaging the gasket. Remove the baffles, if possible.
2. Begin removing contents of the grease trap by scooping it out or vacuuming it out with a wet/dry vac and placing it in thick or heavy duty trash can liners or sealable containers.
3. Remove all contents until the grease trap is empty, including scraping any accumulated sludge on the inside walls, baffles, screens and bottom of the trap.
4. Examine the gasket for damage and replace if necessary. Never use tube silicone as a gasket.
5. Reinstall the gasket and reposition lid on the tank, ensuring all screws and hold-downs are in place and properly tightened.
6. All waste materials should be placed in thick or heavy duty trash can liners or sealable containers, with absorbent material (kitty litter or floor dry available at auto parts stores) placed with it to soak up all excess liquids.
7. Securely tie the bag of waste closed so that it does not leak and place bag in the garbage (solid waste) dumpster. It is **ILLEGAL** to dump grease trap or kitchen waste into the sanitary sewer system (toilets, cleanouts, manholes, etc.), storm drains, ponds or outdoor areas.
8. Be sure to keep all of your log sheets filled out each time you clean your grease trap. They will be required at the end of the year when you renew your business license.

## TIPS

- ◇ Prior to cleaning a grease trap, let ice melt into the sink connected to the device. This will reduce odors and cause the grease to congeal, making grease removal easier.
- ◇ Use Allen screws for securing the lid of your trap instead of the conventional Phillips or slot screws. Phillips or slot screws may become stripped over time.
- ◇ Keep an extra gasket on site for your grease trap's lid to prevent leaks and odors in the event of a gasket failure.

**UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES CAN YOU REINTRODUCE THE REMOVED WATER OR MATERIALS INTO THE CITY'S SEWER SYSTEM. FLUSHING A GREASE TRAP WITH HOT WATER OR THE USE OF CHEMICALS OR OTHER AGENTS TO DISSOLVE OR EMULSIFY GREASE AND ALLOW IT TO FLOW INTO THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT SYSTEM IS PROHIBITED.**