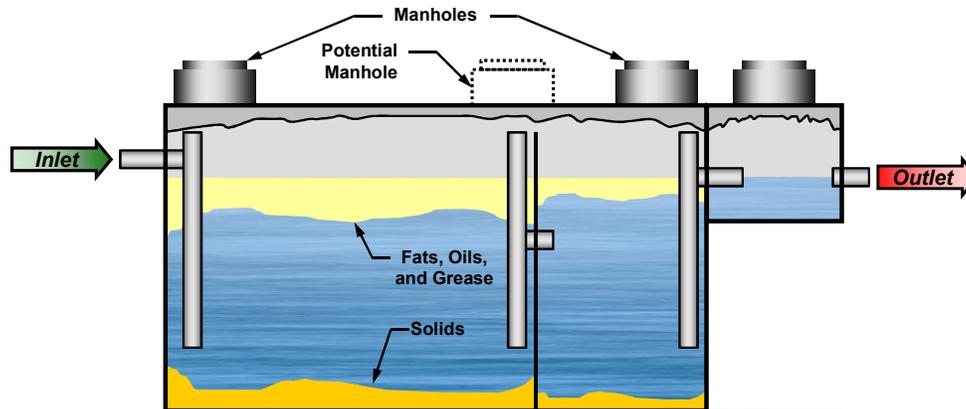


# Gravity Grease Interceptor (GGI) Fact Sheet

Gravity grease interceptors (GGIs) treat kitchen wastewater from food service establishments (FSEs) using gravity separation. They accumulate fats, oil and grease (FOG) and solids over time allowing the treated wastewater to discharge to the sanitary sewer (see the figure below).



**Gravity Grease Interceptor  
Outdoor, In-ground  
500 – 1,500 Gallons (Typical)**

## **Design and Sizing**

GGIs are made of precast concrete, steel, fiberglass or PVC and are sized according to the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). Chapter 10, Table 10-3 of the 2006 and 2009 UPC sizes GGIs based on the number of drainage fixture units (DFUs) connected to the interceptor. Typically, GGIs are 500 - 1,500 gallons in volume, depending upon the number of kitchen drains connected.

## **Certification and Approval**

The International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) provides certifications for a wide variety of GGI products and sizes. Agencies often require that GGIs be certified by IAPMO before they can be approved for use in their service area.

## **Proper Maintenance and The 25% Rule**

Many California sewerage agencies require that GGIs be cleaned (pumped) out completely at a mandatory minimum frequency of once every 90 days to prevent the over-accumulation of floating FOG and settled solids. A complete pump-out means that all of the contents of the interceptor must be pumped out and no liquids can be returned to the interceptor unless specific permission has been granted in writing by the sewerage agency for this practice. Some GGIs may need to be pumped out more frequently than once every 90 days if the floating FOG and settled solids accumulation exceeds 25% of the overall capacity of the interceptor prior to the 90 day period (i.e., the 25% Rule).



## **Inspections**

Agency inspections should focus on making sure that the GGI is working properly and that the internal plumbing and baffle walls are intact. If an inspector determines that the floating FOG and settled solids accumulation is excessive in the GGI, they will typically notify the FSE that the GGI must be pumped more often. FSEs are often required to save pumper receipts or maintain logs to show the inspector that the proper maintenance is being conducted.

