



PRETREATMENT FACT SHEET

PURPOSE : EPA mandates the implementation of the General Pretreatment Regulations 40 CFR 403, to all businesses that may affect the City's **Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)** by the use of a Pretreatment Program.

The objective of the City of Yakima's Wastewater Division's Pretreatment Program is to protect the POTW from pollutants discharged by industries that can cause equipment damage, interference of plant processes, or pass through into the receiving waters, and to protect the community. These are achieved by taking samples and testing for several parameters to ensure that each business discharging to the City's POTW, remains in compliance with Federal, State, and local effluent limits.

Businesses are classified as **Minor Industrial Users (MIUs)** based on the category of the business, and by characteristics and volume of wastewater being discharged. If identified as a MIU, the business will be subjected to a sewer pretreatment (SPT) charge on their utility bill. The charge will be in accordance with § 7.60.105 D. of the City of Yakima's Municipal Code (YMC). This charge covers periodic testing performed by the City to ensure compliancy with wastewater discharge limits set by the Pretreatment Program. It will also allow the Pretreatment Program to monitor the business as needed.

FAT, OIL, and GREASE : One parameter of great concern is **Fat, Oil, and Grease (FOG)**. FOGs cause tremendous problems for the City's POTW. Heavy concentrations of FOGs have the potential to cause back-ups within the collection pipes leading to the flooding of wastewater into residential homes or businesses. It also interferes with the process at the POTW. Not only is this an extremely expensive and unpleasant situation, it is also a health hazard.

The limit for FOG concentration being discharged into the City's POTW is **100 mg/L** in accordance with YMC § 7.65.060 (B)7. The Pretreatment Program strictly enforces this limit when it monitors businesses. Enforcement action is taken in accordance with YMC § 7.65.200 when businesses do not meet compliancy after they are warned.

The Pretreatment Program monitors business such as **restaurants, cafes, cafeterias, bars or clubs, brewery/tap rooms, hotels, hospitals, school kitchens, bakeries, or other related establishments** that serve or prepare food where grease may be introduced to the sewer system. These businesses shall have grease interceptors (grease traps) to prevent the discharge of fat waste, oil or grease.

Other businesses monitored by the Pretreatment Program for FOG include, but are not limited to, **automotive repair shops, detailing shops, and car/truck washes**. Discharges of process water from these facilities must be directed through a grease interceptor prior to discharging into the City's POTW. Potentially flammable wastes, sand or other harmful ingredients could be discharged to the POTW. Explosive conditions can result, causing harm to the public and to the POTW. Petroleum products are monitored to prevent spills into the city's POTW and into stormdrains that lead to surface water.

The Codes Department will evaluate if a grease trap or grease interceptor is required for a particular business per applicable code. They will also determine the sizing and location of the grease trap or interceptor to be installed.

The installation of a grease trap or interceptor does not assure compliancy with the FOG limit. The volume of discharge, the type of discharge, any pre-wash cleaning procedures, and frequency of grease trap/interceptor cleaning, vary from each business and has a direct result on the final outcome. The Pretreatment Program focuses only on the actual test results to indicate if a business is in compliance with the effluent limits.

The City's Pretreatment Program has initiated a grease program. The program will focus on educating the managers of businesses that introduce FOG into the POTW of proper FOG disposal. The program also consists of monitoring the businesses to ensure grease traps or interceptors are being maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. Responsibility will fall on the business owners or managers for maintaining and presenting to Pretreatment, upon inspection, manifests indicating the cleaning schedule of the grease trap or interceptor. Cleaning can be done by a rendering company or by the business itself.

METALS : Metals are of great concern for the City of Yakima. The Department of Ecology has reduced the allowable concentration level of metals in the effluent to be discharged to the Yakima River by the City's POTW. Local limits for the metals are being evaluated in order to meet these stringent requirements.

Pretreatment monitors for metals in businesses such as **automotive repair shops, doctor and dental clinics, controlled atmosphere (C.A.) storage, metal fabricators, printing/ photo shops**, to name a few.

STRONG WASTE : Strong waste is defined as process wastewater having concentration levels greater than **300 mg/L** for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and/or total suspended solids (TSS). Businesses identified through testing as discharging strong waste, are subjected to a surcharge and is reflected on the bi-monthly utility bill.

The rates for the surcharge are in accordance with YMC § 7.60.020 B. and § 7.60.025 B., and are based on the concentration of BOD and TSS and the amount of process wastewater discharged.

The Pretreatment Program monitors strong waste from businesses in order for the Wastewater Division to properly treat the wastewater and to evaluate the capacity level of the POTW.

GOALS : It is the goal of the Pretreatment Program to protect the public from harmful substances, protect the process and equipment of the City's POTW, and ultimately protect the waters of the State. This will ensure a cleaner environment with the capacity at the POTW for future growth.