

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH FACT SHEET

No. 506

TRADE WASTE PRE-TREATMENT DEVICES

BACKGROUND

Pre-treatment devices treat grease-laden trade waste generated from food premises. These devices comprise either grease arrestors or grease reduction devices (GRD).

Power and Water Corporation (Power and Water) accepts approved trade waste to its sewage system to minimise the cost to business and to protect the environment. Power and Water Corporation's Trade Waste Management System (TWMS), provides the framework for Power and Water to control and manage the discharge of trade waste to sewer. All businesses discharging trade waste must hold a Power and Water Trade Waste Discharge Permit. The TWMS only has legislative jurisdiction in sewered areas where Power and Water hold the sewerage discharge licence; this excludes areas such as Jabiru, Gove and Alyangula. **Notwithstanding, the Approval Processes still apply to non-sewered areas that utilise on-site wastewater treatment systems. However in this case, Environmental Health is the sole Regulatory Authority.**

Environmental Health provides comment on new and upgraded commercial food premises to ensure compliance with the Food Safety Standards. This comment may include an assessment on the requirement for a pre-treatment device, (i.e. grease arrestor or grease reduction device). Grease reduction devices (GRD) claim to offer a higher level of treatment of kitchen trade waste and so for the purposes of this Fact Sheet; they are not considered to be classified as a grease arrestor.

Environmental Health will accept the installation of specific grease reduction devices (GRD) inside food premises providing that it is not feasible to install a grease arrestor outside the building. Environmental Health also supports the installation of GRDs to the outlets of all BBQ and steaming equipment used to cook chicken, duck, pork and other similar food products.

APPROVAL PROCESS

All pre-treatment equipment to be connected to sewer must firstly have a Power and Water Product Authorisation Approval. Power and Water will, in general, only accept an approved grease arrestor with a minimum capacity of 1000 litres for all new food premises. Where possible, Power and Water will always recommend that a grease arrestor be located external to the building or within an underground car park facility. In addition, Power and Water will endeavour to encourage the installation of GRDs outside food preparation areas where practical.

In October 2005, Environmental Health and Power and Water agreed that specific types of GRDs would be permitted to be installed in food preparation areas. However, this will only be permitted for retrofits, as Power and Water will continue specifying that grease arrestors for all new commercial food premises.

At this stage, this provision will only apply to GRDs utilising a mechanical separation system similar to the *Grease Guardian*. In addition, basket type traps with in-built seals or permanently fitted strainers must be installed to pot washtubs, and signage must be installed in the food preparation area indicating that there is a GRD. The signage must also display the maintenance requirements for the operation of the GRD.

Since Power and Water must be notified of a trade waste discharge to sewer (i.e. installation of a GRD), then it is their responsibility to fax a copy of the Installation of a Trade Waste Pre-treatment Device in a Commercial Food Premises to the relevant Environmental Health Office.

Environmental Health is not required to issue an installation approval or respond to Power and Water's advice.

Power and Water is still assessing the long-term viability of GRDs utilising a bacteria dosing system.

PLUMBING CERTIFICATION

The self-certifying plumber undertaking the work is responsible for all aspects of the installation of the pre-treatment device, however it is not the plumber's role to submit a Trade Waste Application. Upon satisfactory installation by a self-certifying plumber, Power and Water will issue the Business Owner/Centre Management with a Trade Waste Permit stipulating any appropriate conditions, providing the installation is in an area where Power and Water hold a sewage discharge licence.

BUILDING CONTROL PROCESS

Environmental Health is a reporting authority under the Building Control process and therefore provides comment to Building Certifiers on new and upgraded food premises located in Building Areas. This comment may also include a determination on the location of a trade waste pre-treatment device. It should be noted that the installation of a GRD does not constitute a requirement for Building Certification, however the plumber still needs to self-certify the installation.

INSPECTION OF GRDS

An approved service agent must inspect GRDs on a 3-monthly cycle. Service agents must forward inspection reports to Power and Water within 14 days of the inspection occurring. Environmental Health will also inspect GRDs during food premises inspections.

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