



The Importance of Grease Control in Restaurants

Fats-Oils-Grease (FOG) - A Hazard to Sewer Systems

Who is Carmel Area Wastewater District?



- Carmel Area Wastewater District (CAWD) is the Authority Having Jurisdiction over discharge of Grease Laden Wastewater into the public sewer in Carmel-by-the-Sea and Unincorporated Carmel.
- CAWD was formed in 1908 and is one of the longest standing public utilities in California.

Why is FOG control important?



1. Grease builds up in sewers and blocks pipes
2. Blocked Pipes lead to Sewage Spills
3. Sewage Spills are a Public Nuisance and can result in property damage and regulatory fines

Why is FOG control important?



A sewer spill caused by a grease related blockage occurred in 2016, resulting in about \$1M in damages.

What time is it when sewage fills your cottage?

By KELLY NIX

ROUTINE MAINTENANCE caused sewage to back up into an iconic Carmel-by-the-Sea cottage, forcing the home to be designated a biohazard and uninhabitable for nearly four years, a complaint against a

wastewater agency alleges.

Carmel Area Wastewater District crews on Oct. 26,

2016, were the agency's pipe pressure to s known as th

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A Superior Court, contends that "the contamination was continuous," and that Carmel-by-the-Sea didn't issue a certificate of occupancy for the cottage until June 25 — almost four years after the spill had occurred.

The complaint says the claim was handled by CAWD's insurance company, which hired a third party to have the property cleaned up.

However, there was a dispute over the insurance work and she received "another notice of intent to lien and several past due notices" from the remediation business. Cesare was later told the insurance claim had been closed.

"Plaintiff, and all trust beneficiaries, were shocked, as they had never received notice of the claim being closed," nor had the company indicated that beneficiaries should stop working with contractors "toward final construction and restoration" of the property, the lawsuit says.

CAWD general manager Barbara Buikema told The Pine Cone this week that the

sewer spill was likely the result of grease blockage in the pipes upstream from the Pied Piper House, and that crews had been cleaning the lines before the accident occurred.

A sewer district report on the foul incident notes that the spill entered the home from a bathroom shower drain and that "water affected the bathroom, all neighboring bedrooms, living room, dining room and kitchen. Water also entered the heating system."

Unfortunate mistake

The report notes that the spill occurred at around 11:30 a.m. and that CAWD was notified the next day at about 1:50 p.m. Wastewater crews responded quickly, getting to the house five minutes later.

Several other properties were also damaged by the spill.

Cesare alleges negligence and nuisance on the part of CAWD.

CAWD's "conduct in acting or failing to act, thereby causing the flood of sewage that erupted from the sewer line, was unintentional, but negligent and/or reckless," according to the complaint, which seeks an unspecified amount in monetary damages exceeding \$25,000.



PHOTO/KERRY BELSER

This quaint cottage, built by M.J. Murphy in the 1920s, was essentially destroyed by a sewage spill in 2016. (Construction debris is shown right.)



“Fatbergs” created by Saponification



From Wikipedia:

A **fatberg** is a rock-like mass of waste matter in a sewer system formed by the combination of flushed non-biodegradable solids, and fat, oil, and grease (FOG) deposits. The handling of FOG waste and the buildup of its deposits are a long-standing problem in waste management.

Is Carmel Unique in Having to Control Grease discharge to Sewers?



- Grease control regulations are abundant across the U.S. within State and Local codes.
- State and Local codes specifically address control of Fats-Oils-Grease from Food Service Establishments.
- Local Sewer Agencies require restaurants to capture grease before it gets into the sewer.



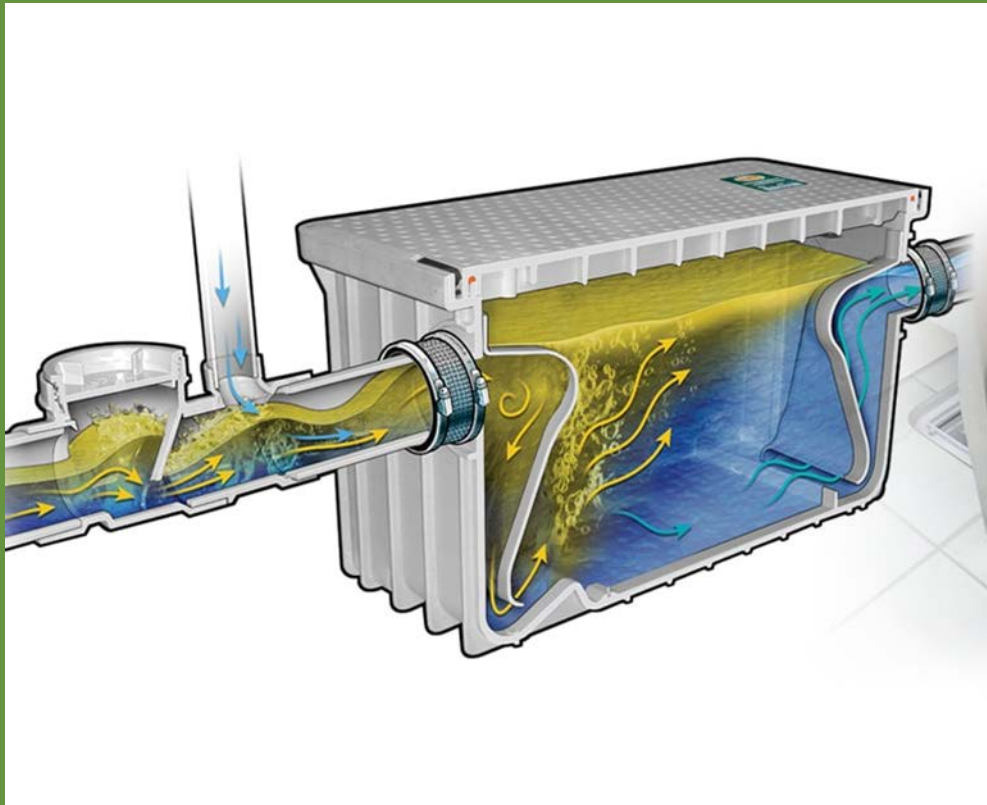
What is CAWD Doing to Control the Public Nuisance Caused by FOG in Sewers?



- CAWD is revamping our FOG Source Control Program.
- CAWD has been cleaning the sewers around restaurants at a high frequency to eliminate grease. This extra cleaning work has been done at an added cost to all ratepayers.
- CAWD is asking restaurant Owners and Managers to work with us.

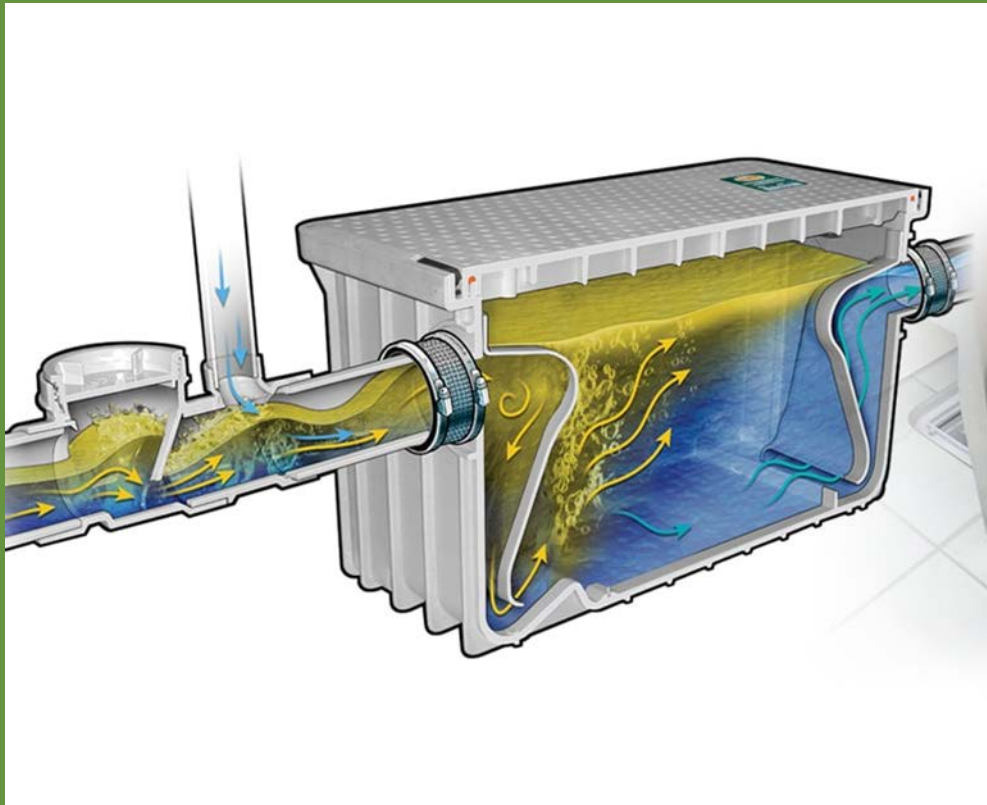


What are grease control best practices?



1. All drainage fixtures are connected to the grease trap.
2. Floor mopping water is discharged through the grease trap.
3. The grease trap is properly sized and installed with a flow restriction device.
4. The grease trap is in good condition and is functional.
5. The grease trap is cleaned regularly.

Plumbing Permits - Commercial Kitchen Drainage Fixture Plumbing



1. CAWD is the Authority Having Jurisdiction over grease laden wastewater plumbing.
2. All drainage plumbing work in a commercial kitchen requires a permit from CAWD so we can review plans and inspect to make sure the kitchen drains will not introduce grease into the public sewer.

Next Steps...



1. CAWD is updating our local ordinances pertaining to FOG.
2. CAWD will issue Compliance Orders if Grease Control measures are inadequate.
3. An ample correction period will be noted in the Compliance Order
4. CAWD may consider possible creation of a rebate program (TBD).

