



# WASTEWATER PRETREATMENT PROGRAM FACT SHEET

**GOAL** : It is the goal of the Wastewater Pretreatment Program to protect the public, protect the process and equipment of the City's Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW), and ultimately protect the waters of the State. This will help maintain a cleaner environment, and also extend the life and capacity of the POTW to serve the City's future growth.

**BACKGROUND**: The Environmental Protection Agency (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 Wastewater Pretreatment Program. The Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) administers the regulations through the NPDES Permit issued to the wastewater treatment system.

The objective of the City of Port Angeles's Wastewater Pretreatment Program is to protect the community and our POTW from pollutants discharged by certain businesses into the public sewer. These pollutants can cause equipment damage, interference with plant processes, or pass through into the receiving waters of Port Angeles Harbor. The program is implemented by issuing permits to businesses, taking samples of wastewater and testing them for several parameters to ensure that each business discharging to the City's POTW remains in compliance with Federal, State, and local standards.

**WHO IS AFFECTED?** Non-residential customers are regulated by the Industrial Wastewater Pretreatment Program. Significant Industrial Users (SIUs), such as the landfill, are regulated directly by DOE. Businesses are classified as minor industrial users (MIUs) based on the category of the business, and by the characteristics and volume of wastewater being discharged. Typical businesses covered under this program include **manufacturing facilities, processing plants, hospitals, automotive repair shops, detailing shops, and car/truck washes**. Olympic Medical Center and the US Coast Guard are examples in Port Angeles. Other businesses monitored by the program include, but are not limited to, **restaurants, cafes, cafeterias, bars or clubs, hotels, school kitchens, bakeries**, or other establishments that serve or prepare food where grease may be introduced to the sewer system

If identified as a MIU, the Port Angeles Municipal Code (PAMC) Chapter 13.06 requires identified users to obtain and comply with a discharge permit. The permit facilitates compliance with wastewater discharge limits. The limits are based on local conditions and are set by an analytical method approved by DOE. The Pretreatment Program defines and explains wastewater discharge requirements, and monitors business as needed to assure compliance.

For instance, potentially flammable wastes, acids, or other harmful chemicals are prohibited from being discharged to the POTW. Petroleum products are monitored to prevent interference with the city's POTW and pass-through into the harbor, or spills into stormdrains that lead to surface water.

Concentrations of heavy metals and sediments are limited but not prohibited. . The DOE regulates the allowable concentration level of metals in the effluent to be discharged to Puget Sound by the City's POTW. The Wastewater Pretreatment Program monitors for metals in businesses such as **automotive repair shops, doctor and dental clinics, metal fabricators, printing shops, and photo shops**, to name a few.

**STRONG WASTE:** Strong waste is defined as process wastewater having concentration levels greater than **400 mg/L** for biochemical oxygen demand (BOD) and/or total suspended solids (TSS). A business identified through testing as discharging strong waste will be subjected to a surcharge on their wastewater utility bill, once ordinance amendments to the PAMC are approved. The surcharge will be based on the concentration of BOD and TSS and the amount of process wastewater discharged.

**FATS, OILS, and GREASE:** One parameter of great concern is fats, oils, and grease (FOG). FOG causes tremendous problems for the City's POTW. Heavy concentrations of FOG have the potential to cause back-ups within the collection pipes leading to the flooding of wastewater into homes or businesses. It also interferes with the proper functioning of the POTW. Not only is this an extremely expensive and unpleasant situation, it is a health hazard.

The limit for FOG concentration being discharged into the City's POTW is **100 mg/L**, in accordance with PAMC Chapter 13.06. The Wastewater Pretreatment Program strictly enforces this limit when it monitors businesses. Enforcement action is taken in accordance with PAMC Chapter 13.06 when businesses do not remedy as situation after they are warned.

In 2010, the City approved amendments to the PAMC relating to wastewater rates, fees and charges. These changes include a surcharge assessed to those businesses that discharge FOG above the local limit of 100 mg/L. Violators of this limit may also incur enforcement action leading to possible administrative penalties in accordance.

The Wastewater Pretreatment Program monitors businesses that serve or prepare food where fats, oils or grease may be introduced to the sewer system. These businesses shall have grease traps or interceptors 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.

The City's Wastewater Utility will evaluate if a grease trap or grease interceptor is required for a particular business per the PAMC. They will refer to the Uniform Plumbing Code to 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 compliance 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 for each business and have a direct result on the final outcome. The Wastewater Pretreatment Program relies on actual test results to indicate if a business is in compliance with the effluent limits.

The City's Wastewater Pretreatment Program initiated a FOG program in 2010. The program focuses on educating the managers of businesses that introduce FOG into the POTW of proper FOG disposal. The program monitors businesses to ensure grease traps or interceptors are being maintained and cleaned on a regular basis. Business owners and managers are responsible for maintaining grease traps or interceptors, and documenting the cleaning schedule. Documentation must be available at the time of inspections that are conducted by the Wastewater Pretreatment Program staff. Cleaning can be done by a rendering company or by the business itself.