

Intercept GRIT + OIL

before they damage infrastructure

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GRIT INTERCEPTORS AND OIL/WATER SEPARATORS

Commercial wastewater from car washes and auto repair shops contains silt, sand (grit), and oil. Nasty stuff that, if allowed to escape down the drain, can corrode underground pipes, harm City workers, and cause costly damage to Saskatoon's sewer system.

The City of Saskatoon and the *Plumbing Regulations of Saskatchewan* require all commercial and industrial businesses with overhead vehicle access and floor drainage to have grit and/or oil and water separators installed.

Grit Interceptors usually consist of multiple chambers or compartments. Grit and

other solids settle in these chambers as the wastewater passes through. The remaining wastewater continues on into the sewer system where it goes through the Wastewater Treatment Plant before being returned to the South Saskatchewan River.

Oil/water Separator

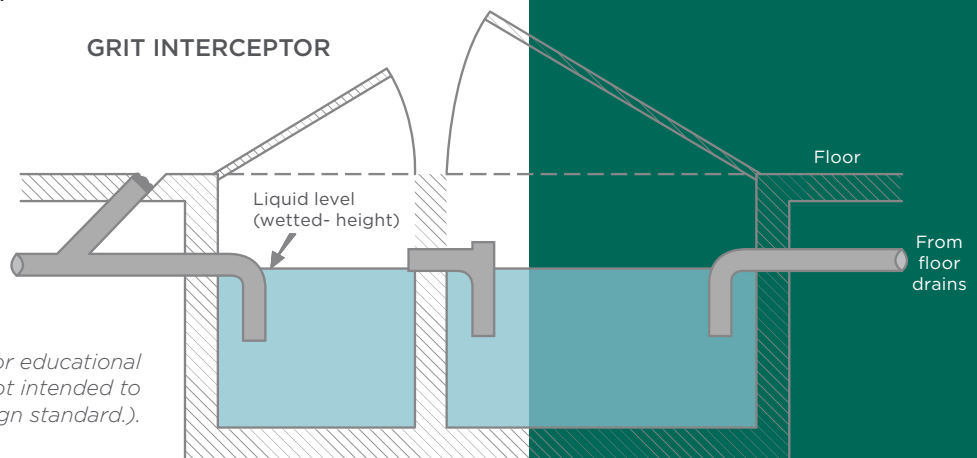
Wastewater containing oil enters a tank from a drain and travels through a set of filters or rises to the surface of a holding tank, and then cleaner wastewater continues through the sewer system.

HOW GRIT INTERCEPTORS WORK

As the diagram below shows, grit interceptors usually consist of multiple chambers or compartments.

Grit and other solids settle in these chambers as the wastewater passes through.

The remaining wastewater goes into the City's sewer system and carried to the Wastewater Treatment Plant before being returned to the South Saskatchewan River. This process helps to ensure the water is safe for people living downstream and for the environment.



(This diagram is for educational purposes only. It is not intended to indicate a design standard.)



INSPECTING AND CLEANING YOUR INTERCEPTOR/SEPARATOR

How often you need to inspect and clean your interceptor/separator depends on the size of the unit and how much grit and oil your business collects.

- **Grit Interceptor**
Should be no more than 75% full from the base to the outlet.
- **Oil/Water Separator**
Should have no more than 5% floating oil and grease from the base to liquid level.

Interceptor/Separator cleaning tips:

- Remember that grit and solids settle at the bottom of the interceptor (they don't float at the top).
- You can check the level of grit in the chamber using a broom handle or other long object.
- Ensure the interceptor is cleaned out before the solids approach the interceptor outlet.
- Measure the amount of floating grease and oil in your separator with a clear tube. Dip the tube into the separator and put your thumb or hand over the opening and withdrawing the tube (think a drinking straw in a glass of milk).

Before installing a GRIT Interceptor or an Oil/Water Separator, always consult a licensed plumber.



KEEP A GRIT AND OIL INTERCEPTOR MAINTENANCE RECORD

Every time you clean your interceptor, log it on the City's Grit & Oil Interceptor Maintenance Record form - available on the City's website, Saskatoon.ca. In place of this form, other records with the same information will be accepted by the City. Don't forget--you must keep the maintenance record for a minimum of two (2) years as proof of cleaning.

Questions About Your Grit Interceptor or Oil/Water Separator?

Visit Saskatoon.ca/sewer, email bylaw.compliance@saskatoon.ca or call 306-657-8766

