A. Policy Statement

The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin) is committed to the prevention of discharges of pollutants to publicly owned treatment works in excess of levels allowed.

B. Scope

This guideline applies to all organizational units of UT Austin who design, construct, install, or modify; or contract for the design, construction, installation, or modification of facilities which may require wastewater pretreatment devices, as well as entities such as The University of Texas System (UT System) who perform these activities for the benefit of UT Austin.

C. Definitions

Acid Neutralization Device – tank, pit, equipment, or process intended to neutralize acidic effluent from a building or process.

Effluent – discharge from a process or facility or device.

EHS – UT Austin’s Environmental Health & Safety department.

Grease Interceptor (Trap) – tank installed downstream of a kitchen, or other food preparation or handling area, intended to allow greases and oils to cool and separate from other liquid effluent.

Grit Trap – tank installed downstream of a car wash or similar facility. Intended to capture grit, sediment, and accompanying oils or greases from wastewater effluent.

Oil/Water Interceptor – multi-compartment tank designed to prevent discharge of oil layer of effluent, while allowing other effluent to pass through the device.

POTW – publicly owned treatment works. Facility of the local municipality engaged in the treatment of sanitary sewer effluent prior to discharge to the environment.
Pretreatment Device – devices, equipment, or processes intended to improve the quality of effluent prior to discharge to the local POTW, including but not limited to:

- oil/water interceptors
- grease interceptors
- pH neutralization systems
- plaster traps
- solids (e.g. grit) traps
- metals exchange units

UT Austin – The University of Texas at Austin and all its facilities, in and out of Austin.

Wastewater – effluent conveyed by the sanitary sewer system to local POTW.

Section I. Responsibilities

A. Environmental Health and Safety

Currently the EHS Interim Director, Chip Rogers, 512-471-3511 is the single point of contact regarding compliance of UT Austin facilities with the City of Austin pretreatment requirements. Additionally, EHS will review and approve or reject plans for installation of new pretreatment devices or modifications to existing devices. EHS will submit plans for these devices to the City of Austin or to any other appropriate local POTW for approval.

B. Colleges, Departments, Other Organizational Units and University of Texas System Office of Facilities Planning and Construction

Deans, Directors, Department Heads, and other Administrative Officials as well UT System staff are responsible for insuring that these guidelines are followed.

Compliance requires these individuals to develop internal procedures and to insure that specifications that meet these requirements are used for all new construction, remodeling, and renovation.

All of these organizational units will notify the Director of EHS by e-mail, followed by hard copy, of the intent to include in a project:

- any of the pretreatment devices listed above
- water treatment systems including technologies such as ion exchange or membrane filters
- food preparation or food clean up areas with 2 or 3-compartment pot sinks, dishwashers, floor drains, trench drains, floor sinks, disposers, tilt kettles, wok stoves, or other similar appliances or equipment
Notification will be made as soon as such intent is known and in all cases no less than 30 days preceding the need for approval. Such notification shall be separate from other plan submittals and the plan review process. Notification constitutes a request for permission to install and a preliminary request for approval of concept or design.

All organizational units listed above will also submit plans to EHS for compliance review and will not proceed with any project until such approval has been received from EHS Director or his/her designee.

All staff of University units and UT System involved in UT Austin projects will communicate with the City of Austin through UT Austin EHS on issues concerning wastewater pretreatment.

Section II. Design & Construction Requirements

A. Grease Interceptors (Traps)

Grease interceptors at all UT Austin facilities will be designed in accordance with the following requirements (these are to be used as specifications, not as guidelines or standards):

Except in localities with different requirements, all UT Austin facilities will use the following design for grease interceptors:

- The grease interceptor must be constructed in accordance with the current plumbing codes adopted by the City of Austin, as amended.
- The grease interceptor shall have two compartments.
- While operating at the interceptor’s rated flow capacity, the first compartment must provide a retention time of no less than seven minutes, and the second compartment must provide a retention time of no less than five minutes.
- Trap inverts and vents shall be external to the compartments.
- The flowline to the interceptor (upstream of inlet invert) must be at least 3 inches above the static water level of the tank.
- Similarly, the interceptor vent must be at least 3 inches above the static water level of the tank.
- The interceptor inlet must be at least 24 inches below the static water level of the tank, and the interceptor outlet must be at least 12 inches above the floor of the tank.
- Adequate flow diffusion features must be provided to evenly distribute flow throughout the grease interceptor. Examples of such features would include a flow diverter plate in the primary compartment, “tee” piping between the two compartments and “tee” piping on the tank outlet.
- Each interceptor compartment shall be accessible for cleaning and inspection purposes.
Grease interceptors design must conform to the conceptual drawing of a typical grease interceptor at: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/images/wwwssd_iw_pr_cgtd.jpg. All fixtures with a potential to carry grease-bearing waste shall be plumbed to the grease trap. Sizing of grease interceptors will be in accordance with the City of Austin’s sizing criteria found at: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wwwssd_iw_pr_gts.htm

B. Grit Interceptors

Car wash grit interceptors will be designed in accordance with City of Austin criteria found at: http://www.ci.austin.tx.us/water/wwwssd_iw_pr_cgs.htm

C. Acid Neutralization Devices

Plans to utilize acid neutralization devices require prior discussion with EHS and adequate lead time for planning. These devices will not normally be allowed.

For Assistance: Questions regarding this guideline should be directed to the Director of EHS at 471-3511.

Approved:

Chip Rogers  
Interim Director  
Environmental Health & Safety

Approved:

Bob Harkins  
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Approved:

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