

Arresters/Separators – Their Function and Operation

Trade Waste Fact Sheet No. 7

INTRODUCTION

Wastewaters containing grease, fat, oil and solid matter in concentrations above SA Water's Standards of Acceptance can:

- Restrict or block flow in sewer pipes, which can lead to surcharges and flooding upstream.
- Generate corrosive by products and odours from decomposing organic material.

Your Grease Arrester will treat waste wash waters only, allowing them to safely discharge to sewer. Floating fat/oil and settled solids are retained in the unit, while the cleaned wastewater portion passes to sewer.

SERVICING YOUR ARRESTER

You are responsible for maintaining effective operation of the unit by ensuring regular servicing. The cleaning/servicing frequency of the unit is agreed between site management and the Trade Waste Branch. As a guide, the maximum build up of wastes, in the last compartment of a conventional underflow grease arrester, shall not

- exceed 100mm of grease/oil and/or solids accumulation in the last chamber or
- exceed 200mm or grease/oil and/or solids accumulation in the first chamber.

Accumulated wastes are to be removed by a Licensed Liquid Waste Contractor (listed in Yellow Pages under "Waste Reduction and Disposal Services"). Should blockages or any damage to SA Water's sewer occur as a result of inadequate arrester maintenance, action will be taken to recover incurred costs.

HINTS FOR USERS

Good work practices, which minimise the arrester's workload, lead to reliable operation and reduce maintenance costs. Overworked arresters may need to be upgraded, if monitoring indicates inferior pre-treatment.

Keep the **volume** of wastewaters flowing to the arrester each hour to within its design capacity (ie. a minimum of 1 hour retention is required). Avoid rapid discharges of large volumes of wastewater. Otherwise wastes could be flushed into sewer pipes, causing a blockage.

Minimise wastewater **temperature**. High temperatures inhibit separation of oil/fat and promote odour causing chemical reactions. The maximum allowed to sewer is 38°C.

Minimise **solids and oils** going to the arrester. The service frequency can be reduced if pre-cleaning steps are used before wash down. Never pour waste oil/fat into the arrester. Set this aside for removal by a Licensed Liquid Waste Contractor.

Detergents may retard effective separation of wastes from the water within your arrester. Choose a quick breaking type detergent.

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Further information

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