

## 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 of 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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