

CITY OF TULSA

INDUSTRIAL PRETREATMENT

The City of Tulsa operates an Industrial Pretreatment program to reduce the levels of pollutants discharged by businesses into its sanitary sewer system.

“Industrial pretreatment” refers to the requirement that industries discharging excessive pollutants must treat their wastewater before releasing it into the sanitary sewer system. The City of Tulsa received EPA approval for its pretreatment program in 1983, and federal laws related to the Clean Water Act of 1972 require cities to enact sewer use ordinances and policies to ensure continued compliance with federal pretreatment regulations.

Tulsa’s pretreatment program is designed to prevent the introduction of pollutants into the sanitary sewer in amounts that could:

- Reduce the ability of our wastewater treatment plants to operate effectively
- Pass through the wastewater treatment plants to nearby rivers and streams
- Result in concerns for worker health and safety
- Damage the sanitary sewer system
- Prevent the City from economically disposing of wastewater residuals (biosolids)

NOTE: This program does not affect **domestic wastewater**, which is wastewater from kitchens, laundry rooms, lavatories, bathrooms, toilets and similar facilities that discharge into the sanitary sewers from dwellings (including apartment buildings and houses), office buildings, factories and institutions.

How does Industrial Pretreatment work?

All businesses, including industrial, commercial and government establishments that discharge process wastewater (non-domestic wastewater), must comply with pretreatment standards and regulations as set forth in city ordinances (Title 11-C, Chapter 12).

The program involves issuing wastewater discharge permits to applicable businesses, taking samples of their wastewater and testing them for several pollutants to ensure each business discharging to the City’s treatment plants remains in compliance with local, state and federal standards.

For those businesses that discharge significant amounts of toxic pollutants, or other pollutants in amounts that could be detrimental to the wastewater treatment plants, expanded regulations are necessary. A Significant Industrial User is also defined under Title 11-C, Chapter 12, Section 1200.

What industries may need to pretreat wastewater?

Typical businesses covered under this program include manufacturing facilities (companies that perform electroplating, metal finishing, semi-conductor manufacturing, battery manufacturing, etc.), processing plants, hospitals, automotive repair shops and car/truck washes. Other businesses monitored by the pretreatment



program include restaurants, bars, breweries, hotels, bakeries or other establishments that prepare or serve food and wash dishes.

The program also monitors for heavy metals at businesses such as doctor and dental clinics, metal fabricators and printers.

The Pretreatment Program may allow certain users of the sanitary sewer system to develop and/or comply with a Best Management Practice (BMP) program in lieu of a wastewater discharge permit to control plant site runoff, spillage, leaks or drainage from raw materials storage.

Specific BMPs can include:

- Capping or plugging sanitary sewer drains
- Secondary containment
- Non-discharging of process wastewater
- Routine maintenance and inspections to confirm functionality
- Employee training
- Recordkeeping and Reporting

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Fines/Violations for non-compliance

While the City of Tulsa works closely with local businesses and industries to provide Industrial Pretreatment solutions, failure to comply with discharge regulations are subject to escalating enforcement with the possibility of monetary penalties, judicial enforcement actions, and termination of sewer service. **Fines for violations can range up to \$1,000 per violation per day.**

Resources for industrial pretreatment customers

For more information, visit www.cityoftulsa.org/government/departments/water-and-sewer/wastewater/industrial-pretreatment.

Where do I learn more about Tulsa's Industrial Pretreatment requirements?

We would be happy to speak with you further about the City of Tulsa's Industrial Pretreatment program. For more information about the requirements businesses must meet, please email the City's Pretreatment Manager at industrialpretreatment@cityoftulsa.org.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

One pollutant of great concern to the City of Tulsa is fats, oils and grease (FOG). FOG causes tremendous problems for the City's sanitary sewer system and wastewater treatment plants. Heavy concentrations of FOG have the potential to cause back-ups within sewer collection pipes, leading to flooding of wastewater into homes, businesses, creeks and rivers.

According to the EPA, 47 percent of sanitary sewage overflows are caused by FOG. Just one of the restaurants you frequent can contribute anywhere from 800 to 17,000 pounds of grease per year to our wastewater treatment plants.

To learn what's right for your business regarding FOG, visit www.cityoftulsa.org and search for "Permit Center. Under "Permit Center Forms," complete the necessary forms in the "plumbing" section.

