



Guidelines for Requesting a Grease Trap Cleaning Variance

1. Before requesting a variance, the establishment must be in compliance with the [Durham County Sewer Use Ordinance](#). Section 26-102(c) pertains to “Fats, Oil, and Grease Removal Systems.”
2. The establishment must request a variance in writing via letter or email sent to the Durham County Deputy Director of Engineering and Environmental Services – Utilities Division.
3. Once the request for a variance has been received, the Pretreatment Project Coordinator must collect a sample from the grease trap effluent within 24 hours before a scheduled cleaning and have the sample analyzed for Total Oil and Grease. Approved EPA and NC State guidelines shall be followed for sample collection, handling, and analysis. A NC certified laboratory shall perform the analysis. The monitoring results shall be provided to the POTW for review.
4. Less frequent cleaning may be permitted if it can be demonstrated that the proposed cleaning schedule will result in a discharge of fats, oil, and grease that is below 200 mg/L and there are no problems with sewer line maintenance as a result of the change in schedule.
5. The Deputy Director/POTW Director will reply with a letter to the establishment either granting or denying the request for a variance. If a variance is granted, a new cleaning schedule will be defined.