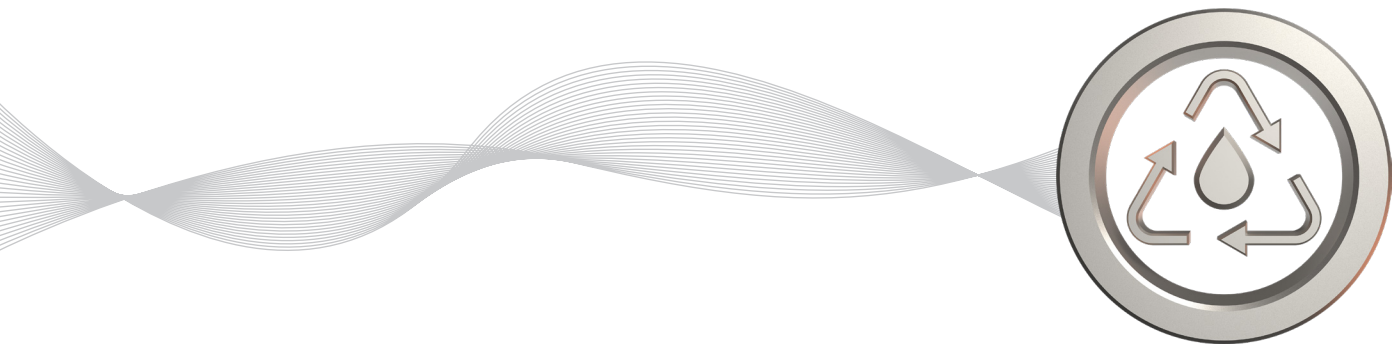




Restaurant Oil and Grease Recycling

Proper FOG management protects the sewer system, ensures regulatory compliance, reduces costs, and supports environmental sustainability.

Grease interceptors and recycling programs work together to keep grease out of the sewer and turn waste into valuable products.



Why Oil & Grease Management Matters

Improper management of FOG is a leading cause of sewer blockages and overflows. When FOG enters the sewer system, it can:

- Coat and clog pipes, pumps, and equipment.
- Cause sewer backups and overflows.
- Increase Biological Oxygen Demand and Chemical Oxygen Demand.
- Raise operating and maintenance costs.

In Orange County, a large percentage of sewer overflows are caused by FOG-related blockages.

Types of Grease

Yellow Grease

Grease that has not been mixed with water, including:

- Deep fryer oil.
- Cooking oil from pots and pans.
- Butter, lard, vegetable oils.
- Grease from meats, nuts, cereals.

This grease:

- Must be kept out of drains.
- Should be stored separately for recycling.
- May have market value depending on quality and volume.

Brown Grease

Grease mixed with water and food solids, including:

- Interceptor grease.
- Trap grease.

This grease:

- Is captured in a grease interceptor or other grease removal device.
- Must be pumped out and hauled away by a permitted hauler.

Grease Recycling

How Grease Is Recycled:

1. Tested for pesticides and other contaminants.
2. Solids removed through settling.
3. Heated under vacuum to remove impurities.
4. Processed material sold for reuse.

Products Made from Recycled Grease:

- Biodiesel
- Animal feed
- Soaps and cosmetics
- Compost
- Industrial products

Benefits of Recycling

Cost Savings

- May reduce interceptor pump-out frequency.
- Some renderers provide free collection.
- High-quality grease may generate revenue.

Environmental Benefits

- Prevents sewer blockages.
- Reduces landfill waste.
- Conserves natural resources.
- Saves energy.

Whenever possible, FOG should be treated as a valuable recyclable resource.



Selecting a Grease Recycler

When choosing a recycler, ask:

- Are you a permitted hauler?
- Where do you dispose of or recycle the grease?
- Do you provide collection containers?
- Do you provide pickup and transportation?
- Is there a service fee or revenue payment?
- What materials are accepted?
- What counts as contamination?
- Who handles service issues?

Resources

CalRecycle



800.RECYCLE (732.9253)

www.calrecycle.ca.gov

California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA):



916.654.0466

www.cdfa.ca.gov