PROHIBITIONS ON CHEMICALS, ENZYMES, OR BACTERIA IN GREASE CONTROL DEVICES

**CHEMICALS**

Using chemicals to clean a GCD is prohibited because:

◊ Using chemicals to clean a GCD is a violation of local ordinance.
◊ Cleaners, solvents, caustics, or other chemicals cannot be used to dissolve accumulated grease from your GCD.
◊ These chemicals can interfere with the operation of the GCD and cause grease to leave the control device.
◊ The grease may deposit on the sewer pipes downstream from your business, obstructing flow in the pipes, requiring increased sewer maintenance, and may contribute to sewer overflows.

**ENZYMES**

Using enzymes to clean a GCD is prohibited because:

◊ Using enzymes to clean a GCD is a violation of local ordinance.
◊ Whether produced synthetically, from plants, or from animals, enzymes cannot be used to dissolve grease from a GCD.
◊ Enzymes may temporarily alter the chemical form of the grease, allowing the grease to dissolve in the water.
◊ Enzyme altered grease may reform into solid matter downstream from your business, obstructing flow in the pipes, requiring increased sewer maintenance, and may contribute to sewer overflows.

**BACTERIA**

Using bacteria to clean a GCD is prohibited because:

◊ Using bacteria to clean a GCD is a violation of local ordinance.
◊ Bacteria need a reliable environment to grow and are sensitive to change in temperature, pH, oil and grease loading, water flow changes, etc.
◊ Biological expertise and ongoing sampling are often needed for bacteria to be sustainable and to keep the system operational.
◊ Even if bacteria survive and flourish, their effectiveness in removing grease is limited.
◊ “Partially eaten” (i.e., not broken down completely) grease may still enter the sewer, reform into solid matter, obstruct pipes, and contribute to a sewer overflow.

For more information, please visit:

www.spackecounty.org/FOG or call us at (509) 477-7579

Images courtesy of City of San Jose

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