



# How to Properly Clean your Small Grease Trap (units under 50 gallons)

## Tool & Materials

1. A large trash can
2. 2 or 3 trash can liners/bags (thick or heavy duty)
3. Absorbent material (Floor dry available at auto parts store or clay kitty litter)
4. Proper hand tools and safety equipment to open trap
  - a. hex head wrench (allen wrench), screw driver/small pry bar, scraper, rubber gloves and safety glasses
5. Tools for removing contents
  - a. scoop of some type
  - b. scraper (for cleaning the internal parts)
  - c. wet/dry vacuum (optional)
6. Towels/rags

## Let's begin:

1. Prepare your work area (clear area of debris, bleach bottles, and other cleaners).
2. Line the trash can with the garbage bags.
3. Add absorbent material (floor dry or kitty litter) into the lined trash can. This will soak up the water and liquid waste making transport of waste to the dumpster cleaner and safer.

## Dig in:

1. Remove the lid of the grease trap.
2. Observe the manner in which the internal parts are installed because you'll have to re-install them properly when you finish cleaning the trap.
3. Begin removing contents of the grease trap by dipping or vacuuming the waste products from the inside of the grease trap
4. Remove all contents until grease trap is empty
5. Do **NOT** use hot water, degreasers, or soaps to clean the interior of the trap.
6. Scrape all the inside walls, baffles, and screens to insure movement of water through unit.
7. Inspect and note condition of tank, baffle and all removable parts. Schedule repairs or replacement as needed.
8. Make sure the grease trap has been properly reassembled (all internal parts are in their proper place).
9. Examine the gasket for damage. Replace if necessary – never use tube silicone as a gasket.
10. Clean and re-install rubber gasket and reposition lid on tank. Ensure all screws and hold-downs are in place and properly tightened.
11. Ensure enough absorbent material has been placed in bag to soak up all excess liquids. Add more if needed. Securely tie the bag of waste closed so that it does not leak.
12. Place bag in the garbage (solid waste) dumpster or designated receptacle. It is illegal to dump grease trap or kitchen waste into storm drains, ponds or outdoor areas.

## Document and report your maintenance as required by Industrial Pretreatment Regulation:

1. Complete an entry on the small trap maintenance log to be kept onsite.
2. Complete an entry on the small trap pump-out report which should be mailed in monthly.

## Cleaning your Grease Trap frequently is “a good thing” for the following reasons:

1. **Fewer smells and odors** – The longer waste is trapped the stronger the odors it generates
2. **Longer trap life** – Rotting foods create acids which eat away at the internal components and tank. This reduces the lifespan of your trap and leads to increased repair and replacement costs.