



Industrial Pretreatment

Best Management Practices for Oil/Water Separators

Introduction

This guide is designed to inform industrial and garage facilities that contains an oil water separator (OWS), and discharges to the sewer system, the proper method maintaining these devices under JEA Industrial Pretreatment Regulations. As part of the Clean Water Act, the National Pretreatment Regulation (40 CFR 403) was established to protect WRFs and the waterways to which they discharge. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) delegates this responsibility to the State of Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). In Jacksonville, FL, the state has delegated local authority to JEA. It is the responsibility of the JEA Industrial Pretreatment (IP) Program to regulate discharges to the WRF and control contaminants that enter the sanitary sewer system.

Oil water separators (OWS) are a pretreatment measure to remove oil and solids from process wastewater before discharging to the sewer system. All facilities where petroleum-based products, wastes containing petroleum, or oily and/or flammable materials are used, produced, or stored are required to maintain an **oil/water separator OR the floor drains must be sealed to prevent discharge**. Maintenance of oil/water separators is vital for proper operation and efficient removal of oil.

Required Oil/Water Maintenance Practices:

1. At a minimum of once every **30 days** the oil/water separator must be inspected for accumulation of surface oil. *
2. If free or standing oil is covering the surface, the oil must be removed from the separator. At a minimum of once every **90 days** regardless of the interceptor inspection results, the interceptor must be pumped out.
3. The enclosed maintenance log must be used to document separator inspections and maintenance activities.
4. All records, such as waste manifest and maintenance logs, shall be maintained on site for at **least 3 years**.



* Facilities with improperly maintained oil/water separator that cause damage to the JEA sanitary sewer system, may be held liable for any cost associated with cleaning and restoring the JEA system



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JEA's Techniques to improve OWS performance and reduce maintenance costs:

- Eliminate contaminants: Don't rely on the OWS to handle wash from fuel, coolant, solvent, oil, or paint spills. Instead, clean up spills when and where they occur with dry methods.
- Wash without detergents: Emulsifying cleaning compounds disperse oil in wash water and make OWS's ineffective as oil passes right through to the sewer system. High pressure water or non-emulsifying cleaners are sufficient for most cleaning applications.
- Minimize the amount of solids and oils that enter your OWS. The fewer solids and oils that reach the OWS, the less frequently they must be removed. Filters and screens can be used to reduce the amount of solids that enter the o/w separator.
- Use reusable absorbent pads to absorb the oil and grease in the separator.

For more information on OWS please visit The Florida Billing Code- Traps, Interceptors, and Separators at: [Chapter 10: Traps, Interceptors and Separators, 2020 FBC - Plumbing, 7th edition | UpCodes](#)



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Appendix F

JEA Oil Water Separator Maintenance Log

Facility Name _____

Address: _____

Directions: Facility must inspect oil water separated at a minimum of every 30 days and record results. If free oil has accumulated on surface it must be removed. Regardless of inspection, the separator must be pumped out at a minimum frequency of once every 900 days.

DATE	SURFACE OF SEPARATOR OBSERVATION CHOOSE ONE: NO VISIBLE OIL SHEEN FREE OIL	SEPARATOR PUMPED OUT? YES/NO	NAME OF INSPECTOR (PRINT)	SIGNATURE OF INSPECTOR

Maintain log for minimum three years from last record.