

High-Strength Discharge Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Town of Wellington FOG & Industrial Pretreatment Programs

The Town of Wellington's FOG and Industrial Pretreatment Programs work with local businesses that produce high-strength discharge to reduce the amount of potentially hazardous substances in the wastewater system. High-strength wastewater discharge is wastewater discharge containing a higher concentration of organic matter, solids, FOG (fat, oil and grease), or other organic components than residential wastewater. These discharges can include contaminants such as solids, sulfides, high temperatures and extremes in pH. These factors can generate odors, corrode pipes, adversely affect aquatic organisms and impact the Wastewater Reclamation Facility and personnel.

Practice Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Best management practices are proactive techniques that prevent pollution at the source rather than trying to eliminate them later from a mixed waste stream. It means looking at every action to determine how fewer and less harmful substances can be used, how fewer waste products can be created, how substances can be reused or recycled and what disposal options are available to keep these substances out of the wastewater system, landfills and the air.

Reduce Solids

Solids must be reduced from wastewater prior to discharging into the wastewater system. Food Service Establishments should practice scraping plates along with pot and pans into the garbage prior to washing. Any customer utilizing a fermentation process should filter their waste prior to discharging. The residual waste solid material should be collected by settling, straining, and screening or filtering; then solids should be dewatered and disposed off-site. Please reuse or recycle any valuable by-products generated from fermentation. All other businesses should be cautious of what is washed or flushed down sinks, floor drains and toilets.

Moderate pH levels

Any wastewater having a pH less than 5.0 or greater than 10.0 or having corrosive property is prohibited from being discharged to the wastewater system. Liquid wastes from cleaning and sterilizing activities must be collected, tested for pH and adjusted to a pH between 5.0 and 10.0 before discharging into the wastewater system. Caustic solutions, which have a high pH level, can be treated by adding mild acids such as vinegar or citric acid and mixing or bubbling carbon dioxide through the solution before discharge. Acid solutions, which have a low pH, can be treated by adding baking soda or a weak calcium carbonate (lime) solution. Other ways to moderate pH levels in liquids include the use of manual cleaning methods like scrubbing with scrub pads, using other non-chemical cleaners and avoiding the use of chlorinated chemicals.



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Cool and Conserve Water

Any wastewater having a temperature which will inhibit biological activity in the treatment plant or stimulate excessive biological activity is prohibited from being discharged to the wastewater system. Wastewater with a temperature that exceeds 104 degrees Fahrenheit (40 degrees Celsius) at the regional treatment plant influent is thus prohibited.

Ways to conserve water include the use of clean-in-place systems during the cleaning process, monitoring the water consumption to keep track of water usage and finding alternatives to water-cooled chilling equipment.



Spill Prevention and Response

To help prevent spills, store ingredients, products and chemicals in corrosion-resistant containers that will not easily overturn. Use secondary containment as needed to prevent leaks and spills from draining into the wastewater system. Develop a spill response plan and train employees to follow the plan. Post the spill response plan and the contact information for spill notification in a prominent place.

In the event of an accidental discharge or spill of high-strength toxic materials into the wastewater system notification must be made IMMEDIATELY by contacting the following:

- During business hours Mon-Fri: (970) 568-0447
- Outside regular business hours: (970) 690-0634

Record Keeping

All records must be kept a minimum of three years. Documentation must include routine maintenance activities, interceptor pumping, grease trap cleaning, waste removal, and the means of disposal for accumulated wastes. The Town requires at least annual maintenance; however, more frequent maintenance may be mandated based on inspection findings.

Other Resources

- Colorado Division of Water Resources: <https://dwr.colorado.gov>.
- Colorado Rural Water Association: <https://crwa.net>.
- Town of Wellington Municipal Code, Chapter 13, Municipal Utilities:
https://library.municode.com/co/wellington/codes/municipal_code?nodeId=CH13MUUT.

