



# HOW TO PROPERLY CLEAN A HYDRO-MECHANICAL GREASE INTERCEPTOR (HGI) (200 LBS. /100 GPM OR SMALLER)

## TOOLS AND MATERIALS

1. A large trash can
2. Two or three trash can liners/bags (thick or heavy duty) or sealable containers
3. Absorbent material (floor dry available at auto parts stores or clay kitty litter)
4. Proper hand tools and safety equipment to open HGI: 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 for removal of water and solids
  - b.) scraper (putty knife)
  - c.) wet/dry vacuum (optional)
6. Clean paper towels or cloth rags

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN

1. Develop a strict maintenance schedule and adhere to it. Typically, clean the HGI once every 30 days for larger HGIs and every week for smaller HGIs, or more often as necessary. If the HGI is located indoors it is recommended that the unit be cleaned during closed hours. Cleaning HGIs during operating hours could expose your customers to offensive odors.
2. Prepare your work area (clear area of debris, bleach, bottles, and other cleaners).
3. Line the trash can with garbage bags.
4. 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.
5. Refer to the installation manual for disassembly of the unit.

## CLEANING YOUR TRAP

1. Turn fasteners counter-clockwise to loosen and carefully remove the lid of the HGI without damaging the gasket.
2. Observe the manner in which the internal parts are installed because you'll have to reinstall them properly after you finish cleaning the HGI.
3. Begin removing contents of the HGI by scooping or vacuuming the waste products from the inside of the HGI.
4. Remove all contents until the HGI is empty.
5. Do NOT use hot water, degreasers, or soaps to clean the interior of the HGI.
6. Scrape all the inside walls, baffles, and screens to insure movement of water through unit.
7. Inspect the condition of the tank, baffle, and all removable parts. Schedule repairs or replacement as needed.
8. Make sure the HGI has been properly reassembled (all internal parts are in their proper place).



Dirty HGI



Clean HGI

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 HGI or kitchen waste into the sanitary sewer system (toilets, cleanouts, manholes, etc.), storm drains, ponds, or outdoor areas.

#### **REPORTING AND DOCUMENTATION**

1. Contact **Pima County Industrial Wastewater Control Section** for Hydro-mechanical Grease Interceptor Cleaning logs to be kept on site.
2. Maintain documentation of HGI cleanings as required by Pima County Code 13.36.450 for a minimum of three (3) years.
3. The information about the date, time and person cleaning the HGI must be recorded on the Hydro-mechanical Grease Interceptor Maintenance Log.

### Why Clean Your HGI Frequently?

**FEWER SMELLS & ODORS:** The longer waste is trapped, the stronger the odors.

**LONGER TRAP LIFE:** Rotting foods create acids which eat away at the internal components and tank, reducing the lifespan of your HGI and leading to increased repair and replacement costs.

**CLEAN WITH EASE:** The more frequently the HGI is cleaned, the easier it will be.

**NO CLOGS:** Regular cleanings help keep sewer pipes clean and reduce backups due to clogged lines.

