



Brownsville Public Utilities Board Pretreatment Department Requirements for Expansions, Renovations, and New Buildings

Before Leasing, contact the Pretreatment Department at 956-983-6510 to ensure your site meets all Pretreatment requirements. The Pretreatment Ordinance has been revised as of 2021. Older pretreatment systems (grease traps / interceptors) may no longer meet Pretreatment sizing requirements.

Business Type	Pretreatment Requirements
Food Establishments	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grease interceptor (minimum capacity of 500 gallons with at least two compartments with fittings designed for grease retention). 2. Hydromechanical Pretreatment Systems must be pre-approved by BPUB Pretreatment Manager to ensure compliance. 3. Discharge from kitchen fixtures or any fixtures that can introduce grease must be connected to grease interceptor/trap and segregated from all other sanitary sewer. 4. Install an 8-inch sample port after grease interceptor/trap.
Exemptions	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grease trap (minimum capacity of 50 liquid gallons) only allowed for expansions and renovations if no space is available. Must be pre-approved by BPUB Pretreatment Manager. NOT applicable for new buildings. Sized by volume (liquid gallons), not (g.p.m) or (lbs.). 2. Snow Cone / Raspa stands that serve ONLY ice-based desserts. 3. Facilities that serve only precooked foods or beverages and no washing is performed at the facility. 4. Home / Day care centers with a maximum capacity of 12 customers (not including attendant staff). 5. Home / Day care centers that provide catered food brought in from a separate food preparation facility. 6. Businesses with septic tanks and are not connected to BPUB collection system.
Car Washes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grit/Sand/Oil Interceptor (minimum 250 gallons for 1 bay, 350 gallons for 2 bays, 450 gallons for 3 bays, 750 gallons for 4 bays, and 1000 gallons for 5 bays). 2. All interceptors must have a minimum of two compartments and an 8-inch sample port. 3. Discharge from fixtures that can introduce oil, solvent, etc., must be connected to grit/sand/oil interceptor and segregated from all other sanitary sewer.

This Brownsville Public Utilities Board Pretreatment Requirements for New Buildings Document was last updated: March 25, 2024

Auto Sales / Services	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit a letter certifying that no floor drains will be connected to sanitary sewer system except restrooms. 2. Submit a letter certifying that no floor drains will be connected to sanitary sewer system except restrooms. 3. If drains are connected to sanitary sewer, then must install: Grit/Sand/Oil Interceptor (minimum 250 gallons for 1 bay, 350 gallons for 2 bays, 450 gallons for 3 bays, 750 gallons for 4 bays, and 1000 gallons for 5 bays). 4. All interceptors must have a minimum of two compartments and an 8-inch sample port. 5. Discharge from fixtures which have the possibly introduce oil, solvents, etc., must be connected to grit/sand/oil interceptor and segregated from all other sanitary sewer.
Medical / Dental Offices	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. If X-rays are processed using chemicals, then a silver recovery unit shall be required an 8-inch sample port shall be required outside. 2. If digital imaging is used or if X-rays are not processed, then need to submit a certified letter. 3. Complete and submit a Silver Discharger's Survey with all required information. 4. Dental offices shall use some type of mercury capturing device.
Laundromat	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Shall install lint trap on clothes washer discharge line.
Warehouse	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit letter certifying no hazardous chemicals will be stored on site. If hazardous chemicals are stored than need to submit quantities and spill response plan. 2. No floor drains will be connected to sanitary sewer, except for restrooms.
Dry Cleaner	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Submit equipment specification and quantities of all hazardous chemicals to be stored on-site. 2. Submit a Spill Response Plan for approval.
Strip Mall / Shopping Center	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Each lease space must be designed as to have a separate sewer discharge line with its own 8-inch sample port. 2. A common sewer line for separate lease spaces is not permitted inside building. 3. All necessary pretreatment systems (grease interceptor/trap, grit/sand trap, oil/water separator, etc.) must be installed as required. 4. Strip malls, plazas, or any type of shopping center, which may include a food service establishment, in the future, shall be required to designate a green area for installation of a minimum 500-gallon grease interceptor for each food service establishment.
Hotel	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Laundry needs to install lint trap on washer wastewater discharge line. 2. Restaurant needs minimum capacity of 500-gallon grease interceptor, with at least two compartments. 3. Install an 8-inch sample port
Photograph / Film / X-Ray Processing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must install silver recovery unit and 8-inch sample port 2. Complete and submit a Silver Discharger's Survey with all required information.
Oil or Solvent - Based Products	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Need to install Oil/Water separator 2. Install an 8-inch sample port

Note: Please refer to specification for grease interceptor/trap, grit/sand trap and oil/water separator. BPUB is not responsible for the need to upgrade to a larger size, if pretreatment system is inadequate.