

19 NYCRR Part 1229-2 Grease Interceptors

This issue of the Code Outreach Program intends to provide CEOs with guidance to ensure their local jurisdiction are aware of the recent amendments to the Uniform Code found in 19 NYCRR Part 1229 Other Uniform Code Provisions (Part 1229), particularly, Section 2 of Part 1229 Grease Interceptors (Section 1229-2). The July 6, 2022, issue of the State Register (<https://dos.ny.gov/state-register>) announced an Adoption of the Rule of a new version of Part 1229 with an effective date of July 6, 2022. The full text of the rule is available at: https://dos.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/06/2022-06-10-text-of-rule-part-1229-grease-interceptors_noa.pdf

Background This new addition to the Uniform Code addresses safety concerns for both hydromechanical and gravity types of grease interceptors, which are commonly referred to as grease traps. Pursuant to Executive Law § 378 (18), the Uniform Code shall establish minimum standards for grease interceptors. Hydromechanical grease interceptors, are commonly found under the sink or adjacent to another appliance and are typically required by the Uniform Code to protect the building drainage system (see Section 1003 of the 2020 Plumbing Code of New York State). While gravity grease interceptors, which are commonly required by the local sewer district to protect the sewer system, are usually located outside, and typically have a capacity of greater than 300 gallons.

General Safety Provisions Section 1229-2.4 provides the general provisions and requirements applicable to grease interceptors. Grease interceptors and their covers must be designed and constructed to withstand the expected loads. The access covers must prevent unauthorized access by at least one of the following means:

- covers that can be removed only with tools;
- covers with minimum weight of 66 pounds (30 kg);
- covers that have a keyed or combination locking device;
- a permanent barrier such as a fence or wall that: is not less than 48 inches (1219 mm) tall; has installed on any gates or doors in the barrier a self-closing mechanism, a self-latching mechanism with the latch release installed at a minimum of 54 inches (1372 mm) from the finished floor or ground surface, and a keyed or combination locking mechanism; completely surrounds all openings in grease interceptors that provide access to the grease interceptor separating them from all other purposes and uses other than for service, cleaning, or other maintenance of the grease interceptor; and which prevents unauthorized individuals from accessing the covers; or
- other approved alternative method of preventing unauthorized access.

Signage. Grease interceptors shall be provided with a minimum of one approved sign. The CEO may require additional signs as necessary to ensure the warning is readable by persons who are in the vicinity of the grease interceptor. The CEO may accept sign(s) designed in conformance with a hazard alerting sign complying with the 2017 version of ANSI Z535.2: American National Standard for Environmental and Facility Safety Signs, with a warning hazard classification. The sign(s) shall:

- (i) be mounted in a conspicuous location in the vicinity of any cover or covers that provide access to the grease interceptor.
- (ii) be made of a non-fading, rigid, weather-resistant material suitable for the installation location. Laminated paper is prohibited. Adhesive backed signs shall only be allowed for grease interceptors that have a depth less than 24-inches when measured from the top of the access cover to the bottom of the tank.
- (iii) be substantially compliant with Figure 1 (to the right), with a separate top and bottom panel with black borders. The lettering of the top panel shall consist of the word “WARNING” in uppercase black letters on an orange background, preceded by a black triangle with an orange exclamation mark. The bottom panel shall consist of the words “ACCESS COVERS SHALL BE SECURED AT ALL TIMES” in uppercase black letters on a white background.
- (iv) have a minimum nominal width of 14-inches and a minimum nominal height of 10-inches.
Exception: The sign(s) for grease interceptors that have a depth less than 24-inches when measured from the top of the access cover to the bottom of the tank shall have a minimum nominal width of 7-inches and a minimum nominal height of 5-inches.
- (v) be permanently affixed and any mounting hardware and supporting devices shall be of a sturdy, weather-resistant material suitable for the installation location.



Figure 1: Grease Interceptor Warning Sign

Maintenance. Grease interceptors shall be maintained in accordance with the Uniform Code and the manufacturer’s installation instructions, regularly serviced, and cleaned to prevent the hazardous discharge to the downstream building drainage system, the public sewer, the private sewage disposal system, or the sewage treatment plant or processes. Records of maintenance, cleaning, and repairs shall be available for inspection by the code enforcement official.