

A FACT SHEET FOR Selecting Grease Haulers and Treatment Facilities



Grease Goblin

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG) are commodities that if handled properly can be treated as a valuable resource. P²AD's Fact Sheet for Food Service Oil and Grease Rendering provides information about the benefits of rendering to produce valuable products from your food service establishment's FOG waste. Once you understand what proper brown and yellow grease management is and why you should be doing it, the next question that has to be addressed is how do you find a reputable hauler and treatment facility? This fact sheet provides questions to ask haulers and treatment facilities; and information

Yellow Grease:

Grease that is used for or generated by cooking (pots, pans, grills, deep fryers) and has not been mixed with water. Yellow grease is inedible. It is often a valuable commodity.

about the treatment facilities operating in Georgia. Under contract with P²AD, the University of Georgia College of Biological and Agricultural Engineering conducted extensive research into haulers and treatment facilities in Georgia. This research serves as the basis for this fact sheet, and for the lists

of haulers in Georgia, including their ranges and services, which has been posted at www.p2ad.org. P²AD provides these names for informational purposes only, and does not recommend, verify, nor endorse the services of any of the companies listed.

How to Evaluate Haulers and Treatment Facilities

As with any business, although there are many grease haulers that offer reliable, affordable and environmentally-minded service, there are also haulers who are unscrupulous. Food service operators must be educated to the unethical practices certain haulers employ in an attempt to circumvent proper spent FOG handling procedures.

The term '*Pump-and-Dump*' is used to describe the practice where unethical haulers come to a food service establishment with a full load of spent FOG obtained from an earlier visit to another site. First, although the hauler appears to put in a hose and pump OUT of the food service grease trap, they are actually first pumping IN to the grease trap causing the trap to overflow into the effluent collection system. When the truck tank is empty, the hauler simply reverses the process and removes the remaining material in the grease trap. If the food

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service operator inspects the grease trap after the operation is complete, all appears normal. The hauler simply takes his tanker to the next site and repeats the illegal procedure again and again.

Another major environmental concern involving unscrupulous haulers is illegal dumping. Illegal dumping has been a major problem for decades. Recent incidences of illegal dumping have made headlines throughout the country.

When contacting prospective haulers, food service operators can benefit from some basic knowledge of industry terms. Along with discussing the cost of services, availability, and scheduling; food service operators should inquire if the haulers *'full-pump'*. Full-pump is the term used to describe the practice of pumping out a grease trap completely, removing not only the floating spent FOG but also the settled solids at the bottom of the tank and any associated wastewater. There is dispute within the industry whether proper maintenance of grease traps can only be accomplished by full-pumping the trap during each cleanout. Or if simply *'skimming'* the spent FOG from the surface of the wastewater is adequate during regular maintenance, thus avoiding the need to handle and dispose of the bottom solids following each servicing, and full-pump is only required periodically when solids build up in the bottom of the grease trap.

Other questions of prospective haulers might include what *contractual service options* are available. Most haulers offer contracts for regularly scheduled service, while others

Brown Grease:

Spent FOG, settled solids and associated wastewater retained by a grease trap. Brown grease is generated from the cleaning of equipment and utensils used in the preparation and serving of food, and has generally come in contact with detergents, cleaning solutions, pesticides, and water.

simply respond to customers phone calls. Is the load of spent FOG collected by the hauler manifested? A *manifest* is a form used to accurately track loads to ensure proper handling. Will the hauler notify customer of upcoming service? Food service operators must be prepared to become familiar with and periodically inspect the work done by a hauler. This will involve understanding and observing the whole collection process, not just completing a visual inspection once the service is completed. More detailed information on the grease trap and septic pumping industry is available on the Internet at <http://www.pumper.com>.

How to Locate Haulers and Treatment Facilities

In many areas of Georgia, food service operators are faced with thumbing through the local Yellow Pages directory as the only resource for locating a company that will service small generator grease traps. Although in some cases the phone directory can be a starting point, there are more effective and efficient ways of selecting a spent FOG hauler:

✓ *Check with other food service operators in the same area*

As it is with many business services, word of mouth is often the most effective tool for finding reliable assistance. Although many areas are densely populated with food service establishments, individual operators rarely communicate with other businesses. Food service operators should take the time to ask business neighbors for their recommendation and experiences with grease traps services. Also, if businesses are currently receiving reliable, affordable service, they should take every opportunity to make recommendations to their food service neighbors.

✓ *Call spent FOG treatment facilities to ask for hauler references*

Although some treatment facilities only accepted spent FOG collected by their own service vehicles, many companies also accept waste from independent haulers. A discussion of Georgia treatment facilities is provided in this fact sheet.

Food service operators can contact these facilities to inquire of their services and ask for recommendations for the independent haulers from which they accept spent FOG.

✓ **Check with the local pretreatment program staff if food service wastewater is discharged to a local publicly owned sewer system**

There are currently about 50 Georgia cities that operate state approved industrial pretreatment programs. Many regulate the operation and maintenance of grease traps whose effluent flows to publicly owned sewer systems. Many also maintain a list of haulers that service grease traps in their jurisdictions.

✓ **Check with the local county health department if food service wastewater is discharged to a privately owned on-site treatment system**

The state’s system of public health districts and counties maintain lists of approved haulers that can pump waste from grease traps and privately owned on-site wastewater treatment systems.

American Proteins

Kennesaw, GA
(800) 903-4312

Georgia-based American Proteins is best known in the state for the rendering of poultry processing offal. In addition to these better known services, American Proteins also renders spent FOG from food service establishments at three locations in Georgia.

American Proteins operates yellow grease processing facilities in Kennesaw, Dalton and Macon – where the facility operates under the name Mercer, Inc. Serving food service customers all over Georgia, American Proteins services include both the pumping and hauling of yellow grease. American Proteins renders yellow grease (no brown grease is accepted) from it own hauling operation, as well as from a select group of independent haulers.

American Proteins reported that the price for yellow grease fluctuates based on the amount collected.

Boca Industries

Smyrna, GA
(404) 650-0050

Boca Industries, located in Cobb County is a brown grease processor serving the Georgia food service industry. Boca is a self-described “centralized pretreatment facility for small quantity generators”. Services offered include acceptance of spent FOG from manifested independent haulers, emergency support for large quantity generators,

Grease Treatment Company Profiles

Allwaste (PSC)

Fairburn, GA
(770) 969-7886

Allwaste (PSC), located in Fairburn (Fulton County), accepts and treats brown grease from manifested independent haulers. Currently, PSC only accepts commercial and industrial grease trap materials. Fees charged to independent haulers range from 12-14 cents a gallon. Currently, PSC only accepts FOG from three independent haulers.

Yellow and Brown Grease Treatment Companies				
Name of Treatment Plant	City	Phone Number	Yellow Grease	Brown Grease
Allwaste (PSC)	Fairburn	(770) 969-7886		X
American Proteins	Kennesaw	(800) 903-4312	X	
American Proteins/Mercer	Lizella	(800) 903-4312	X	
Boca Industries	Smyrna	(404) 605-0050		X
Disposal Solutions LLC	Lawrenceville	(770) 237-9868		X
Ecosolve, LLC	Charlotte	(800) 831-7715		X
Environmental Waste Recovery	Acworth	(770) 917-0377		X
Griffin Industries	Ellenwood	(404) 363-1320	X	X
Griffin Industries	Dublin	(912) 272-7340	X	X
G.W. Diggler	Ridgeland, SC	(800) 660-9060		X
North Georgia Processing	Martin	(770) 384-7191	X	X
Southern Waste Services	Hinesville	(912) 368-7858	X	X
Weststar Environmental	Jacksonville, FL	(904) 721-7557		X

water treatment services and contract grease trap cleaning for food service establishments. Boca requires that every load have a completed, accurate manifest.

Along with accepting spent FOG from independent haulers, Boca operates its own 4,800-gallon trucks that collect brown grease under contracts with a major restaurant and grocery store chain with locations throughout the state. The cost for services is dependent upon whether Boca collects and processes FOG or simply processes FOG brought in from independent haulers. Cost of collection and processing for clients is usually in the range of 25-27 cents per gallon. Fees assessed to independent haulers for FOG processing is approximately 15-20 cents per gallon. Boca's main service area is Atlanta but will accept waste from anywhere and will clean out traps if an adequate contract price is established with the client.

Disposal Solutions LLC

Lawrenceville, GA

(770) 237-9868

info@disposalsolutionsusa.com

Disposal Solutions is a spent FOG treatment facility situated on 3 acres with access just off of Hwy 316 in Lawrenceville. It is owned and operated by Atlantic Pit Service, a 25 year old Georgia pumping company specializing in pumping commercial brown grease and septic. The plant was opened in late 2001 to handle all of Atlantic Pit Service's brown grease but Disposal Solutions will accept brown grease from all independent haulers. The new facility has concrete-paved, covered unloading for all manifested independent haulers of brown grease.

ECOSOLVE, LLC

Charlotte, NC & Winder, GA

(800) 831-7715

www.greasetraps.net

Ecosolve is an environmental service company that provides grease trap pumping and disposal services for most of the Southeast. Ecosolve recycles grease trap waste, and does not land apply nor use grease trap waste as an animal feed. Ecosolve maintains a large fleet of dedicated grease trap collection vehicles and can service large and small indoor and outdoor traps. Ecosolve's services include computerized dispatching and 24 hour emergency response

services. Ecosolve can provide grease trap evaluations as well as proper maintenance training to customers.

Environmental Waste Recovery

Acworth, GA

(770) 917-0377

Located in Acworth, Environmental Waste Recovery (EWR), processes brown grease from the food service industry in north Georgia. Services offered include acceptance of FOG from manifested independent haulers and contract grease trap cleaning for businesses. Services are limited to brown grease from traps and do not include yellow grease.

EWR operates two vacuum trucks that collect grease trap material from various restaurants and a major grocery store chain. The cost for service is dependent upon whether EWR collects and processes FOG or simply processes FOG brought in from independent haulers. Cost of collection and processing for clients is usually in the range of 25-30 cents per gallon. Fees assessed to the three independent haulers that use EWR for FOG processing is approximately 5 cents per gallon.

Griffin Industries

Ellenwood, GA

(404) 363-1320

Griffin Industries, the second largest rendering company in the nation, has five Georgia facilities throughout the state with the largest one located in Ellenwood, near Atlanta. Griffin Industries serves the entire state and surrounding regions by offering a wide range of spent FOG services. Available services in the area of yellow and brown grease include providing bulk storage containers with scheduled maintenance, waste cooking oil collection, and grease trap cleaning. All services offered are available with nighttime operations, eliminating customer exposure to offensive odors and excess traffic.

Griffin Industries only accepts waste that they themselves collect and does not accept spent FOG or other wastes from independent haulers to ensure complete separation of yellow and brown grease waste streams. Griffin Industries offers the service of grease trap cleaning in

exchange for the contractual collection of the customers yellow grease. Clients are charged on a per pick up basis with an average load of 1,500 gallons.

G.W. Digglers

Ridgeland, SC
(800) 660-9060

G.W. Digglers, located in Ridgeland, South Carolina processes brown grease from South Carolina and the southeast region of Georgia. Services offered include acceptance of FOG from manifested independent haulers and grease trap cleaning of individual businesses. Digglers has nine trucks and four employees to service grease traps. Digglers will accept new grease customers only if they have a proportional amount of septic customers in the same area. A certain proportion of septic waste is required in addition to the grease waste for Digglers' land application system.

North Georgia Processing

Martin, GA
(770) 384-7191

North Georgia Processing (NGP), located in Martin (Stephens County), is a spent FOG processor serving the Northeast Georgia region. NGP is a pretreatment facility that primarily processes brown grease collected by company-owned trucks. NGP's scope of services include acceptance of FOG from manifested independent haulers, contract grease trap cleaning, and separate collection of commercial yellow grease.

NGP operates three vacuum trucks that collect brown grease from food service establishments. NGP only receives brown grease from one independent hauler and charges 35 cents per gallon to accept the manifested FOG.

Southern Waste Services

Hinesville, GA
(912) 368-7858

Southern Waste Services (SWS), in association with Odum Service Company, is located in Hinesville. SWS

is a spent FOG processor that services Georgia's coastal region. Services include pumping and hauling of yellow and brown grease from commercial sites. SWS does not accept waste from independent haulers, citing the risk of septic tank waste contamination. Customers that sign a maintenance agreement to have their grease traps cleaned every 12 weeks pay \$150 to have grease traps pumped. New customers must show receipt from a previous cleaning to get the same price. If no receipt is available, SWS charges the customer 50 cents a gallon.

Weststar Environmental

Jacksonville, FL
(904) 721-7557

Weststar Environmental offers services that include acceptance of spent FOG from manifested independent haulers and pumping and hauling of brown grease from commercial sites. Weststar's range of operation spans a 300-mile radius and service is provided to southeast Georgia. Weststar charges 25 cents per gallon per 100 miles for their pumping services.

Grease Haulers

Due to the large number of haulers of brown grease in Georgia, compiled information about these haulers is too extensive to include in this fact sheet. This information is available via P2AD's website at www.p2ad.org/h_fog_initiative.html. To access this information, go to the site above, click on the link reading "List of Georgia Grease Haulers." This list provides: company name, location, number of customers annually, type of businesses served, type of contract arrangements available, geographic range served, cost for service, number of employees, number of trucks, years in operation, and phone number. **P2AD does not provide any certification nor recommendation regarding these haulers, and makes this list available only to aid food service operations in finding more information than is printing in the yellow pages.**



The **Grease Goblin** is the mascot for P2AD's Oil and Grease Management Program. He serves as a reminder to keep grease out of sinks and drains before it becomes a nuisance.