

PIERCE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND UTILITIES SEWER UTILITY

Environmental Services Building
9850 – 64th Street West
University Place, WA 98467-1078
(253) 798-4050

Sanitary Sewer Pretreatment Process Notice

The purpose of this notice is to ensure that you, as an applicant or an interested party for a commercial building permit on a site being served by Pierce County Sewers, are aware of applicable sanitary sewer pretreatment requirements.

Pretreatment review is required for all commercial building permits that are connected to sanitary sewer, including commercial “tenant improvements” on existing structures. If the proposed location is an existing building, appropriate sewer pretreatment devices may already be in place. However, even existing pretreatment devices must be evaluated for adequacy with a new business. A pretreatment application shall be made prior to, or with, the building permit application. The forms necessary to start the application process are available in PDF format at <http://www.piercecountywa.org/pc/abtus/ourorg/pwu/sewer/eng/forms.htm>. The required forms are the “Pretreatment Review Form” and the “Time & Materials Account Information Form.” Application is made at the Pierce County Development Center, 2401 South 35th Street, Tacoma WA 98409.

As determined by the review, not all projects will require sewer pretreatment devices, but other pretreatment measures may still be required, such as raising an existing cleanout to the ground surface for sewer discharge sampling purposes, or payment of additional connection charges if sanitary sewer use will be substantially increased.

Typically, sanitary sewer pretreatment devices such as grease interceptors are needed for projects where food preparation or cooking will be done. Other types of businesses, such as auto repair facilities, also sometimes require the installation of sewer pretreatment devices such as oil-water separators. If released into the sewer system, fats, oils, greases and other contaminants can congeal in local sewer lines. Pretreatment devices trap these materials before they leave the site, preventing clogged sewer lines and sewage overflows.

NOTE! If sewer pretreatment devices or measures are required and are not already in place, the expense as well as time taken for design and construction can have a significant impact on the project. The applicant is advised to plan accordingly.

Pierce County Code applicable to Sewer Pretreatment is Title 13, Chapter 13.06, and is available at <http://piercecountywa.org/pc/abtus/ourorg/council/code/index.htm>.

For further information regarding the applicability of sanitary sewer pretreatment devices to your project, please contact the Pierce County Sewer Utility at (253) 798-4050.