

# Metro Water Services

## Vent Hood Cleaning Procedures & Regulations

Metro Water Services has developed a guide for Vent Hood cleaning to navigate the maze of Local and Federal regulations while safely maintaining compliance with applicable regulations. This document is specifically designed for customers of Metro Water Services customers and may be different in other Water/Wastewater Utilities. Check with the local Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW) to confirm their discharge requirements.

Applicable regulations to develop this policy have been incorporated from Metro Fire Department (MFD), Metro Water Services (MWS) Environmental Compliance and Storm Water – NPDES. Metro Water Services recommends that you review each applicable regulation prior to initiating Vent Hood cleaning procedures.

### ***Procedures for Food Service Establishments (FSE)***

1. MFD §8-3.1.1  
Upon inspection, if found to be contaminated with deposits from grease-laden vapors, the entire exhaust system shall be cleaned by a properly trained, qualified, and certified company or person(s) acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction in accordance with §8-3.
2. MFD §8-3.1.2  
When a vent cleaning service is used, a certificate showing date of inspection or cleaning shall be maintained on the premises. After cleaning is completed, the vent cleaning contractor shall place or display within the kitchen area a label indicating the date cleaned and the name of the servicing company. It shall also indicate areas not cleaned.
3. MFD §8-3.2  
Flammable solvents or other flammable cleaning aids shall not be used.
4. MFD §8-3.3  
At the start of the cleaning process, electrical switches that could be activated accidentally shall be locked out.
5. MFD §8-3.4  
Components of the fire suppression system shall not be rendered inoperable during the cleaning process. (*Exception: Servicing by properly trained and qualified persons in accordance with §8-2*)
6. MFD §8-3.5  
Care shall be taken not to apply cleaning chemicals on fusible links or other detection devices of the automatic extinguishing system.
7. MFD §8-3.6  
When cleaning procedures are completed, all electrical switches and system components shall be returned to an operable state. All access panels (doors) and cover plates shall be replaced. Dampers and diffusers shall be positioned for proper airflow.

8. MWS Metro Code of Laws Title §15.60.080

No person shall introduce into the publicly owned treatment works (POTW) any of the following pollutants which, acting either alone or in conjunction with other substances present in the POTW, interfere with the operation of the POTW as follows:

- A.) Pollutants which could create a fire or explosion hazard in the POTW;
- B.) Pollutants which cause corrosive structural damage to the POTW but in no case discharges with a pH lower than 5.0 S.U. or higher than 10.0 S.U.;
- C.) Solid or viscous pollutants in amounts which cause obstruction to the flow of the sewers, or other interference with the operation of or which cause injury to the POTW, including waxy or other materials which tend to coat and clog a sewer line or other appurtenances thereto;
- D.) Any pollutant, including oxygen-demanding pollutants (BOD, etc.), released in a discharge of such volume or strength as to cause interference in the POTW;

9. MWS Metro Code of Laws Title §15.60.070 Wastewater Pollutants – Maximum Concentrations

No person or user shall discharge wastewater in excess of the concentration set forth in the table below unless:

- 1) An exception has been granted the user under the provisions of §15.60.180; or
- 2) The wastewater discharge permit of the user provides, as a special permit condition, a higher interim concentration level in conjunction with a requirement that the user construct a pretreatment facility or institute changes in operation and maintenance procedures to reduce the concentration of pollutants to levels not exceeding the standards set forth in the table within a fixed period of time.

Ordinance Limits (See Metro Code of Laws Title §15.60.070)

10. Compliance with Metro Water Services

- A.) Prior to initiating vent hood cleaning procedures, seal all internal plumbing that does not drain to the grease interceptor. This waste material must be treated prior to discharge to the POTW.
- B.) Waste material which can drain to the grease interceptor is permissible.
- C.) Coordination of Vent Hood Cleaning and grease interceptor pumping is recommended. Elevated pH, temperature, and flow will cause the grease interceptor to not operate efficiently, thereby allowing excessive strength waste to be discharged and the FSE could be in violation of there FSE permit. It is recommended that a complete pump of the grease interceptor is scheduled prior to any additional discharge from the FSE (ex. Before the store opens for business).

11. Metro Water Services Storm Water.

Per Metro Code of Laws Title §15.64.205, no resulting waste or wastewater from vent hood cleaning procedures shall be discharged either directly to, or into an area that could drain to Metro's Municipal Separate Stormwater System (MS4): This MS4 includes all storm drains, roads, ditches, culverts, or parking lots that are designed to route clean/unpolluted stormwater, safely into the streams of Metro Nashville/Davidson County.

Due to the extreme toxicity of the chemical agents used in cleaning hood vents, all material must be contained, captured, and disposed of into an approved sanitary drain in order to insure this waste wash does not enter the environment.