

## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL REQUIREMENTS

### *New Business Advisement* City Of Reno

The City of Reno (City) Environmental Control Section (EC) regulates the quality and quantity of wastewater discharged into the wastewater facilities. All domestic and industrial/commercial wastewater dischargers to the City's wastewater facilities are subject to wastewater regulations, inspections, wastewater permits, enforcement and penalties per the Reno Municipal Code (RMC).

For applicable RMC sections, visit [reno.gov/env](http://reno.gov/env). Applicable codes (RMC 12.16.530 - 12.16.605) are found under Title 12 Public Works and Utilities, Sewer Service. The RMC is also accessible through the [City website](http://City website) (reno.gov) and listed under the [Business](#) tab.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

All new and renewed business license applications are reviewed by the Community Development Department (CD). During review by CD, the applications may be forwarded to EC if information indicates the need for further environmental evaluation.

Any changes to operations, processes, equipment, or services provided by an industry since filing the original business license application must be reported during the renewal process. Following EC review of your Business License, you may be contacted by phone, in writing, and/or through an onsite inspection to provide more information about your business operation. If your business uses a hazardous or toxic material, generates grease from food preparation, or if you generate a waste (other than domestic type sewage), you may be regulated by EC. Please contact EC at 334-2350 to speak with an Environmental Officer regarding potential requirements. For applicable RMC sections regarding prohibited discharges and limitations on wastewater strength, refer to RMC Sections 12.16.530 and 12.16.565. **Please refer to Appendix A on Page 4, for a list of businesses types which will most likely require an Environmental Control Permit or evaluation.**

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#### **Food Service Operations:**

Food service includes any establishment that prepares, manufactures, processes, washes/sanitizes or otherwise makes foodstuff available for consumption [refer to RMC 12.16.555(b)]. All food service operations with a Grease Interceptor (GI) will be issued an EC permit and inspected annually. The permit will specify the frequency for the cleaning and pumping of the GI. Pumping records must be kept on site and be available for EC inspectors' review for a period of three (3) years.

#### ***New Establishments:***

New establishments, including existing buildings remodeled into food service operations, must install and maintain an approved GI. All kitchen plumbing shall be plumbed through the GI prior to discharge into the sanitary sewer. Restroom plumbing shall not be plumbed through the GI. The size of the GI is calculated by the formula found in RMC 12.16.555(b)(6)(i)(c). This formula is also provided on the *Guidelines for Food Service/Sector Control Programs/Best Management Practices (BMP)* form. Note: For all food service operations, the minimum-sized GI is 750 gallons.

### ***Existing Establishments:***

All new businesses occupying existing establishments which have a GI must prove that the size of the GI meets the sizing requirements found in the RMC and that all existing plumbing is plumbed correctly. New business owners of existing food service operations which have a grease trap may be required to replace the trap with a grease interceptor. Alternatively, the new business owner may apply for a variance to use the existing grease trap. Approval of the variance is at the discretion of EC.

### ***Garbage Pad Specifications:***

When required by Washoe County Health District, a garbage pad must be constructed with a slope to a drain system. Such drain system shall be plumbed to the GI. The pad must be large enough to contain the garbage dumpster and rendering container. Roof drain leaders cannot drain onto the garbage pad.

### **Auto/Equipment Service/Repair Operations:**

Any shop that generates used oil, solvent(s), paint thinner, parts washer waste, jet washer waste, or hot tank waste, etc., must capture and store this material for proper disposal. These materials cannot be discharged to the sewer or storm drain systems. In addition, these materials cannot be stored or placed where they may escape or leak into the sewer, storm drain, or groundwater. Secondary containment may be required as part of outside and/or inside storage. Any floor drains in the service/repair area must be plumbed to an approved Sand-Oil Interceptor (SOI). Alternatively, the drains can be put out of service by proper abandonment per Universal Plumbing Code specifications.

Any shop that washes or hoses down vehicles, vehicle parts, equipment, or the shop floor must discharge the washwater through an approved SOI prior to discharging to the sanitary sewer. No washwater is allowed to the storm drain system. The area used for washing must be adequately protected with a raised pad, sloped, or have a bermed area so that storm water does not directly enter the sanitary sewer (refer to RMC Section 12.16.545).

Service/repair shops which generate any of the above wastes or have an SOI will be inspected annually and will be issued an EC Permit. The permit will specify the frequency for pumping the SOI. Additionally, the facility must maintain records of any waste disposal and pumping of the SOI on site for a period of three (3) years and be available for review and inspection by EC.

### **Photo/X-Ray Developing Operations:**

Operations include, but are not limited to: print shops, graphic design, doctors, dentists, veterinarians, chiropractors, etc.

Any facility generating waste photo fix or other silver-bearing solution from the X-ray processing operation must capture this material for proper disposal. In addition, the facility must maintain records of the disposal on site for a period of three (3) years and be available for review and inspection by EC. This material cannot be discharged to the sewer or storm drain systems.

### **Sewer Billing Rates:**

Commercial/industrial users are billed quarterly for sewer usage. Truckee Meadows Water Authority (TMWA) provides the City with water consumption figures. The City bills users for sewer usage based on the TMWA figures minus non-sewered water. Sewer billing rate information can be found in RMC Section 12.16.130.

### **Credit for Non-Sewered Water:**

A credit may be issued for water which flows through the water meter but is not discharged to the sewer. Examples of water uses that may result in a credit:

- Irrigation;
- Make-up in chillers or boilers;
- Cooling; and
- Water used in a product (bottling)

This water can be accounted for by the installation of an additional meter(s) with remote readout(s). The installation, repair, and maintenance of these meters are the responsibility of the discharger. Prior to installation of any water meter, contact EC to ensure that the meter is configured according to the City's meter reading system. Note: Remote readings of the meter will be obtained on a quarterly basis. There will be a \$15.00 meter read charge per meter per quarter.

An alternate option (for irrigation purposes only) is a credit based on the square footage of the irrigated area. This reduction is applied to the second and third quarter sewer portion of the sewer bills. This application form can be obtained from the EC Office by calling 775-334-2350 [refer to RMC Section 12.16.130 (3)].

### **EC Permit Fees:**

The annual EC permit fees for industrial users starts at \$182 (i.e. industries engaged in food service, auto or equipment service/repair, and photo/X-Ray processing), but can vary based on the hazard class of the facility. The hazard class of a facility is determined during inspection and evaluation of the industrial process. Industrial users are classified into one of the five categories as stated in RMC 12.16.610. Permit renewal fees are added to the annual Business License charges.

## Appendix A

The types of businesses that will most likely require an Environmental Control Permit include, but are not limited to, the following:

### **Automobile/motorcycle/vehicle/equipment repair or sales:**

Auto Sales, Auto Repair, Auto Service, Body Shop, Tire (repair/sales) Shop, Motorcycle Dealer/repair, Service Shops Car Wash, Automotive Detailing, Automotive Painting

### **Food Service:**

Restaurants, Sandwich Shop, Bakery, Convenience Store, Pizza, Snack Bars  
Cafeteria (schools, hospitals, office buildings), Catering  
Coffee Shops or Delicatessens  
Motels/Hotels with any type food service provided

### **Medical Facilities:**

Dentists (amalgam separator requirements)  
Doctor, or Chiropractors using X-Ray processing (excluding digital processing)

### **Industrial and Product Manufacturing Facilities:**

Metal Manufacturing or Fabrication  
Graphic Design, Print Shops, Silk Screening  
Electroplating, Plating, Polishing, Metal Coating Processing, Phosphatizing  
Chemical Manufacturing, Chemical Processing, Blending  
Granite and Stone Cutting  
Dry Cleaning (any solvent type)

### **Any business operations that generate a liquid waste or used material besides domestic sewage.**

#### **Such wastes include, but are not limited to:**

Used oil, used antifreeze, coolant, brake cleaner waste, solvent tank, hot tank, ink, paint or paint-related materials, parts washer, acidic/basic wastes, and/or other chemicals.