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## ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

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Environmental Control implements the National Pretreatment Program at the local level. The Program involves federal, state, and local agencies to protect the Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). By reducing the amount of pollutants discharged to the municipal sewer system, the program protects water quality and improves chances for reusing water and sludges. Environmental Control regulates all dischargers within the City of Reno and is on call 24 hours a day (775-722-4660) for hazardous spills.



## **BUSINESS INSPECTIONS**

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All new business license applications and renewals are reviewed by Environmental Control. New businesses may be inspected to determine if the facility will need an Environmental Control Permit. Businesses that require a permit are inspected a minimum of once per year to review any changes in operation and all waste disposal and pumping records.

## **DISCHARGE PERMITS**

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An Environmental Control Permit is normally issued for 12-month period. There are various Classes of permits depending on the type of business, volume, or characteristics of the wastewater discharge. More than 1,700 businesses are inspected and permitted annually by Environmental Control. During these inspections, environmental officers determine whether the facility is in compliance with Reno Municipal Code and state and federal regulations.

## **CONSTRUCTION INSPECTIONS**

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Certain businesses are required to install a pretreatment device. Construction plans for the pretreatment device must be checked and approved during the building permit process. When all required work is completed, the construction contractor must notify the City Building Department to request a rough and/or final inspection.

## **PRETREATMENT DEVICES**

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**Grease Interceptors:** Businesses that serve, prepare, package, or process food for human consumption must install an approved and properly sized grease interceptor. The sizing criteria for the interceptor can be found in the Uniform Plumbing Code, appendix H, with a minimum size of 750 gallons. The business or property owner is responsible for maintaining the interceptor. Businesses that require a grease interceptor include: restaurants, mini-marts with food service, fast food services, ice cream parlors, doughnut shops, dairy product manufacturing plants, bakeries,

rendering plants, or any other type of business that may have a waste grease discharge to the City of Reno sanitary sewer.

**Sand/Oil Interceptors:** Any businesses potentially discharging a petroleum product to the sanitary sewer from floor drains, wash pad or garbage containment area with a floor drain is required to install a sand/oil interceptor. Instances that require a sand/oil interceptor include: car washes, equipment wash pads, airplane hangars with floor drain or trough, automotive shops with floor drain, any garbage containment area used to dispose of, or store petroleum laden products, or any other business potentially discharging petroleum products to the City of Reno sanitary sewer.



**Garbage Pad Area:** Any business required to have a garbage pad containment area may be required to install a floor drain within the cement pad. The pad must be designed so that all waste drainage or spillage will enter the floor drain. The drain must flow into a sand/oil interceptor or grease interceptor.

**Double Containment Area:** Any area used to store new or used liquid products that could enter the sanitary sewer or storm drain system must have a double containment. Examples of liquid products include: pesticides, herbicides, gasoline, kerosene, diesel fuel, oil, or any toxic or hazardous chemical that may be detrimental to the wastewater treatment plant, waterways, or cause a health and safety issue.

## **SPILL RESPONSE**

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Environmental Control officers respond to environmental emergencies on a 24-hour basis. The 24-hour number is 775-722-4660. Officers work closely with the Reno Fire Department and District Health Department to evaluate emergencies and implement corrective actions.

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## **WAIVER OF NON-SEWERED WATER REQUEST**

Industrial/commercial dischargers may request an allowance for water not discharged to the sanitary sewer, such as irrigation or equipment makeup water.

An application must be approved by Environmental Control prior to receiving an allowance.