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# **TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF OPERATION OF SEWAGE PUMPERS, GREASE PUMPERS, AND TOILET PUMPERS**



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction .....	3
Disease Hazards of Sewage .....	4
Proof of Knowledge by Examination .....	5
Disposal and Interim Storage of Waste .....	5
Quick Reference for New Vehicles .....	6
Minimum Requirements For All Vehicles .....	7
Maintenance Yard/Storage Facility Requirements .....	8
Grease Pumpers and AB 1333 .....	9
Documenting and Reporting .....	9
Special Conditions .....	14
Enforcement .....	15
Procedures For Disinfection After Sewage Spills .....	16
Septic/Grease Monthly Pumping Report .....	17
Portable Toilet Monthly Pumping Report .....	18

## Introduction

- **California Health and Safety Code, Section 117400 et seq.**, requires those who wish to enter into the business of sewage pumping or portable toilets, or both, must register their business with the local Health Officer of that city, town, or county in which is desires to conduct this activity.
- **Food and Agricultural Code, Section 19310**, requires grease haulers to register with the California Food and Agriculture Department.
- **Kern County Ordinance Code 8.04.030** requires those who desire to conduct these same businesses within Kern County “shall apply for an environmental health permit on the form provided, pay to the health officer the prescribed fee and penalty, if any, and shall at all times possess said permit.”
- The Kern County Public Health Services Department, Environmental Health Division (EHD) has the enforcement authority to register, issue environmental health permits, and regulate the activities of sewage pumping, grease trap pumping, and toilet pumping.
- The following information and application reflects the Terms and Conditions of Registration individuals and businesses conducting sewage pumping, grease trap pumping, and/or toilet pumping agree to follow. In so doing, they will comply with both state law and the policies established by the Health Officer.

If there are any further questions, you may contact our office and ask to speak to a Land Use Specialist.

Kern County Public Health Services Department  
Environmental Health Division  
Office: (661)862-8740  
E-Mail: ehsepticprogram@kerncounty.com

## Disease Hazards of Sewage

Exposure to human fecal waste can occur through the following methods:

- Swallowing
- Eating with soiled hands
- Contact with flies, cockroaches, etc.
- Soft tissue around the eyes and nose
- Cuts and scratches on the skin
- Contact with hoses, hand tools, etc.
- Breathing

Infectious diseases caused by the improper handling or disposal of sewage include:

- Dysentery
- Salmonellosis
- Hepatitis
- Typhoid fever
- Poliomyelitis (Polio)
- Paratyphoid fever
- Cholera

Sewage can also contain:

- Toxic chemicals
- Pesticides
- Heavy metals
- Parasites

Some of these materials can accumulate in the body over time, resulting in poor health or malignant (cancerous) health conditions.

It is important that those involved in the care of sewage disposal systems exhibit good sanitary practices and take precautions when handling and disposing of sewage wastes.

It is recommended that sewage workers wear appropriate protective gear, such as:

- Coveralls
- Rubber boots
- Non-absorbent gloves
- Eye protection/goggles

Appropriate measures are required to protect the public health in preventing contamination of soil and water:

- Maintaining vehicles and equipment in a clean, sanitary condition;
- Maintaining leak-proof and fly-tight vessels, tanks, pumps, hoses and holding containers reduces the incidence of accidental spillage, odors and the attraction of vectors; and
- The immediate clean-up and proper disinfection of contaminated areas ensures that disease causing organisms are effectively destroyed. Refer to "Procedure For Disinfection After Sewage Spills".

## **Proof of Knowledge By Written Examination**

**California Health and Safety Code, Section 117420**, the health officer shall issue a “registration” only after the applicant satisfactorily completes an examination. The test consists of twenty (20) questions, which measure the applicant’s knowledge of sanitary laws and ordinances, as well as equipment and reporting requirements within Kern County. The questions have been taken entirely from the contents of this booklet. **The application package is not complete until all drivers pass the test.**

### **Disposal and Interim Storage of Waste**

- All sewage, portable toilet, and grease trap wastes shall be disposed of at a municipal waste water treatment plant;
- Copies of disposal permits/letters of authorization or approved “*Will Serve Letter*” issued by any treatment plant shall be submitted to EHD within fifteen (15) days of issuance. A “*Will Serve Letter*” is a written document which promises to provide or allow the use of their waste disposal plant upon completion of the Environmental Health Permit Registration;
- Firms operating in Kern County which plan to utilize land application disposal sites require prior approval from EHD;
- Stationary Holding Tanks used for the interim storage of sewage before transporting to an approved disposal location require land use approval from the local authority for this activity;
- Vehicles and/or tanks used for the interim storage of sewage must possess a valid health permit/registration issued by EHD.

<p><b>COUNTY OF KERN</b>  <b>2013-2014</b>  <b>ENVIRONMENTAL</b>  <b>HEALTH</b>  <b>PERMIT</b>          Expires June 30, 2014  <b>CA H &amp; S Code Registration</b></p>	<p><b>SEWAGE PUMPING</b>  <b>TANK No. 1278</b>  <small>KERN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES          ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION</small></p>
<p><b>PERMIT STICKER</b>          shall be affix to the          back of the tank.</p>	<p><b>GREASE PUMPING</b>  <b>TANK No. 0058</b>  <small>KERN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES          ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION</small></p> <p><b>DECALS</b> shall be affixed          to the back of the tank.</p>

Lettering must be at least 3 inches high and 1/2 inch thick, legible, and in a contrasting color affixed to both sides of the tank.

**Do not forget:**  
 Mounted and charged fire extinguisher  
 Shovel  
 Hand sanitizer  
 Bleach  
 Water Hose  
 5 gal. Bucket  
 Safety glasses  
 Nonabsorbent gloves



## **Minimum Requirements for ALL Vehicles**

### **Permits and Decals**

- Copy of the current health permit within the vehicle at all times;
- Current health permit registration stickers affixed to the tank;
- Sewage/Grease pumping decals affixed to the tank; and
- Copy of CDAF sticker on inside of windshield.

### **Tank Construction**

- Tank is metal, and welded or riveted;
- Tank is watertight and splash proof;
- All access ports are adequately sealed and do not leak;
- The tank has an automatic shut-off valve to prevent overflow; and
- The tank is properly baffled to prevent sloshing. (Baffling will be inspected on new tanks.)

### **Lettering**

- Business name and phone number affixed on both sides of the vehicle (tank when possible);
- Tank volume affixed on both sides of the vehicle. Tank volume must be placed on the tank itself, not the door(s) of the vehicle;
- Tanks with split volumes shall be so indicated on both sides of the tank;
- Lettering a minimum of 3-inches in height and ½-inch diameter;
- Lettering is distinctly contrasting from the background; and
- Lettering is legible during daylight hours from a distance of fifty-(50) feet.

### **Equipment**

- Racks are constructed and maintained to be easily cleanable;
- Discharge gates or valves are constructed and maintained to prevent leakage or spillage;
- Discharge gates or valves are constructed to discharge contents in a manner, which will not cause pollution or create a nuisance.
  - Gate valves must be opened during inspection;
- Pumps are constructed and maintained to prevent leakage or spillage;

- Hoses are in good repair and of sufficient length to properly reach sources without spilling onto the surface of the ground;
- A water hose present with a minimum 5/8-inch diameter and fifty-(50) feet in length;
- A mounted and charged fire extinguisher;
- Shovel(s) in good repair;
- Hand cleaner and/or hand soap;
- One (1) gallon of liquid bleach or other approved disinfectant for disinfecting small spills; and
- Five (5) gallon bucket, gloves, safety goggles and full face shields.

### **Maintenance Yards and Storage Facility Requirements**

- Zoning is approved by the Kern County Planning Department or local planning authority;
- Property owner authorization to use the property for storage purposes;
- The property is free from cross connection hazards to the public water systems;
- The facility is free of ponding, pooling, standing sewage or septic wastewater effluent, fecal material or grease waste on the surface of the ground;
- The facility is free of stagnant water, which would provide a breeding area for mosquitos and other insects;
- The operator has supplied a hazardous materials operational business plan to the local authority of the storage of hazardous materials and hazardous wastes;
- The property is free of refuse, trash, debris, and excessive weeds.
- All temporary storage tanks must be permitted by KCEH. Tanks must be above ground and approved by KCEH.
- Appropriate land use approval has been granted for temporary holding tanks and containment vessels used for the temporary portable waste, sewage, and grease prior to transport for disposal;



## Assembly Bill 1333 and Grease Pumpers

**Assembly Bill 1333** states grease waste haulers that pump grease interceptors or traps shall not be used to pump any other waste. In Kern County, **businesses must designate vehicles used for the sole purpose of pumping grease traps or grease interceptors. The same vehicle can not be used to pump other wastes, including, but not limited to, yellow grease, cooking grease, recyclable cooking oil, septic waste, or fluids collected at car washes.**

This bill mandates that the entire grease trap tank shall be pumped. Used interchangeably in some parts of the country, “traps” may refer to the small, indoor, above-grade system used to prevent kitchen grease from entering the sewer system, while “interceptors” may refer to the large, external, below-ground devices. For purposes of this Registration Pamphlet, “traps” will be used for both.

### Documentation and Reporting

#### Record Retention

All pertinent records for the **current and previous two-(2) years (3-years total)** shall be kept accurate and made available for inspection upon request. Pertinent records include:

- Customer receipts;
- Waste manifests;
- Monthly pumping reports; and
- Information requested in the Health and Safety Registration Application.

#### Mandatory Reporting

A change in company address shall be reported in writing to EHD by registered mail within **two (2) working days**.

Any change in the following shall be reported in writing to EHD **within five (5) working days**:

- Vehicle storage yard location;
- Company ownership; and
- Waste disposal relocations or additional locations.

**All** discharges, including spills exceeding five (5) gallons, in areas not intended for discharge shall be reported to EHD **within twenty-four (24) hours** of the discharge. Written notification shall be provided to EHD **within five (5) working days**. Written notification may be submitted via mail, fax to (661) 862-8701, or E-mail to [eh@kerncounty.com](mailto:eh@kerncounty.com) .

## Customer Records

The customer shall receive from the sewage/grease trap pumping business a written statement showing the services rendered. It is also understood that the entire septic tank/grease trap shall be pumped. The following information is required on the customer's written receipt or statement:

- Customer name, physical address, and date of pumping service;
- The number of compartments pumped;
- Estimated gallons removed;
- The type of septic containment device pumped: e.g. septic tank, cesspool, seepage pit, vault, privy, restaurant grease trap, wastewater pond; and
- Any repairs and replacement parts used.

## Monthly Pumping Reports

According to the **California Health and Safety Code, Section 117435(a)**, all sewage pumping and grease trap pumping businesses shall file with the health officer, or his or her duly authorized representative, a report specifying the pumping activities over a given frequency. These reports are legal documents. It is very important that they are reviewed for accuracy by the operator before being submitted to EHD.

- All companies shall submit a **typed** pumping report of activities to this Division no later than **the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the following month**;
- Reports are specific to pumping activities within the designated month. If a pumping activity from a previous month is omitted from that month's report, it shall not be included on the following month's report. A corrected report shall be submitted which would reflect the previously omitted activity;
- Interim storage of sewage, portable toilet and grease trap wastes in stationary tanks, transfer, or out-of-service vehicles shall be reporting in the Monthly Pumping Report; and
- If no pumping activity in Kern County has occurred for the month, **"No Activity"** or **"No Pumping This Month"** shall be typed on the pumping report, and submitted.

## SEPTIC/GREASE MONTHLY PUMPING REPORT

Return report to: Kern County Environmental Health, 2700 M Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
 Fax: (661) 862-8701 or E-mail: [eh@kerncounty.com](mailto:eh@kerncounty.com)

Date:	FA#:	<b>The FA# is assigned to all new companies upon registration with Kern County Environmental Health Division (Example: FA0001234)</b>				Other: Specify	
Company Name:	<b>Include your company's full name</b>						
Mailing Address:					E-mail:		
City:							
RESIDENT NAME (Last, First) OR BUSINESS NAME	PHYSICAL ADDRESS OF JOB	CITY	DATE PUMPED	DATE DISPOSED		Gallons	
<b>Include the complete business name or residential customer name for the property being serviced. If it is real estate or title company who requests the pumping for a real estate transaction the escrow number is required.</b>		<b>The complete physical address of where the pumping activity took place, including the city. If an address is unavailable, the use of an Assessor Parcel Number or an intersection is sufficient.</b>					
		<b>When material is pumped from the same address, the volumes pumped shall be reported separately.</b>					
						<b>The date of the pumping activity.</b>	
						<b>The "Tank Decal #" is the number found on the "Septic" or "Grease" sticker issued by Kern County Environmental Health.</b>	
I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FORGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT:							
OWNER/OPERATOR SIGNATURE			DATE		PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING		



## **PORTABLE TOILET MONTHLY PUMPING REPORT**

Return report to: Kern County Environmental Health, 2700 M Street, Suite 300, Bakersfield, CA 93301  
 Fax: (661) 862-8701 or E-mail: [eh@kerncounty.com](mailto:eh@kerncounty.com)

Date:	FA#:	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>The FA# is assigned to all new companies upon registration with Kern County Environmental Health Division (Example: FA0001234).</b></p> </div>										
Company Name:												
Mailing Address:												
City:	Zip Code:											
BUSINESS NAME	LOCATION	# OF TOILETS	DATE PUMPED	DAED DISPOSED	DISPOSAL LOCATION	TANK DECAL #	GALLONS	<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>The specific disposal location of where waste is discharged. Your company must provide proof of authorization from the disposal facility before obtaining a Health Permit from this Division.</b></p> </div>				
<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 15px; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>A report must be submitted even if pumping is not performed during the month. <span style="color: red;">If no pumping occurs for the month, write "No Pumping This Month" across the report.</span></b></p> </div>								<div style="border: 1px solid black; border-radius: 50%; padding: 10px; width: fit-content; margin: auto;"> <p><b>The completed report shall be signed by the operator or authorized representative.</b></p> </div>				
											I CERTIFY UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY THAT THE FORGOING IS TRUE AND CORRECT:	
OWNER/OPERATOR SIGNATURE				DATE		PRINTED NAME OF PERSON SIGNING						

## **Special Conditions**

### **Waste Streams**

- **AB 1333 states:** Sewage pumping vehicles may only be used for pumping and transporting sewage and/or chemical toilet wastes.
- **Penal Code 374.5(c) prohibits** grease trap pumping vehicles from transporting or removing “yellow grease, cooking grease, recyclable cooking oil, septic wastes, or fluids collected at car washes”.
- Any material hauled in a sewage pumping vehicle is considered to be contaminated with sewage and therefore must be deposited at a sewage treatment plant or permitted land disposal site.
- Sewage pumping vehicles may **not** be used for:
  - Pumping Grease Traps;
  - Spreading Water;
  - Hauling Oilfield Waste;
  - Hauling Car Wash Waste; and
  - Hauling Other Industrial Wastes.
- Other waste streams must be approved in advance by EHD. Written notice must be received by EHD prior to approval.

### **California State Agency Requirements**

Those pumping companies that engage in pumping grease interceptors shall also comply with the requirements of the Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA). This includes registering with the CDFA and displaying the grease hauler registration decal.

### **Other Conditions**

All permit fees must be paid prior to operating in Kern County. Kern County operates on a fiscal year, which commences on July 1 and ends on June 30. The purpose of the health permit fee is to cover the initial cost of vehicle and storage yard inspections, and the review of monthly pumping reports. These fees are subject to change, pending approval of the Kern County Board of Supervisors.

## Enforcement

When an operator of a sewage, grease, or portable toilet pumping company is found in violations with the terms and conditions of the Health and Safety Registration, EHD may initiate enforcement action. Methods of enforcement action may include:

- Legal Notice or Notice of Violation;
- Request for a Compliance Review;
- Request for an Administrative Hearing;
- Suspension of Health Permit; and
- Notice to Appear in Court.

**Kern County Ordinance Code 8.04.130 (A):** the Director of Public Health is authorized to charge for services rendered by the personnel for EHD, which are necessary to the performance of their duties as required by law. These charges are in addition to the health permit and fee(s) associated with the sewage pumping vehicle(s) and/or portable toilet pumping company.

**Kern County Ordinance Code 8.04.160:** If the Director of Public Health Services determines that applicable laws have not been complied with, he may suspend or revoke the permit after first issuing and serving upon the permittee, a notice setting forth in clear and concise language the acts or omissions with which the permittee is charge and informing him of his right to a hearing.

**Kern County Ordinance Code 8.04.190 (B):** Failure to obtain or possess an Environmental Health Permit as required is a misdemeanor.

**California Public Resource Code, Section 16053:** Up to \$5,000 in civil penalties for the first violation, and up to \$10,000 for second or subsequent violations.

# **PROCEDURE FOR DISINFECTION**

## **AFTER SEWAGE SPILLS**

The following method for cleanup and disinfection of streets, driveways, etc., after sewage spills or overflows are recommended by the Kern County Environmental Health Division.

1. If sewage is containable to protect against sewage running into storm drains. Use a Kern County Environmental Health Division licensed sewage pumping truck to remove it and take it to a disposal facility.
2. Rake up, sweep up, and shovel up all fecal matter and associated debris. Remove to sewage treatment plant.
3. Using a solution of household chlorine bleach\* to spray down the affected area. Let disinfectant remain in place for at least one-half hour.
4. Wash down the area.
5. Disinfect any tools used with the chlorine disinfectant solution.

**\*Recommended dosage of Chlorine Bleach is:**

**Three (3) ounces of Chlorine Bleach per one (1) gallon of water. This will yield a dosage of approximately 1,000 ppm.**





