Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department
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USED COOKING OIL AND GREASE AND ANIMAL BY-PRODUCTS

Waste Type Sources and Characteristics

Used cooking oils and greases and animal by-products are special wastes. Cooking oil and grease wastes are generated by food service establishments that do deep fat frying or grilling with vegetable- or animal-based oils and greases. These wastes may also be generated by food-processing industries. Animal by-products come from veterinarians and animal hospitals, food-processing industries, or livestock or poultry producers, feedlots, and sale barns.

When not properly managed, these wastes can harm the municipal sewer system and disposal facilities. They can create blockages that cause sanitary sewer waste to backup and flood basements of homes and businesses. Such incidents pose potential health hazards or result in nuisance complaints. On the other hand, these wastes are potentially useful resources that can be incorporated into feeds or other products when properly managed.

Recycling Option

Recycling is the best available option for managing used cooking oils and greases and animal by-products. Animal and vegetable fats and proteins, as well as dead animals, can be processed by rendering plants. The products of such processing are inedible fats, proteins, and hides. In turn, these products are used to make soaps, chemicals, cosmetics, leather goods, plastics, lubricants, and livestock, poultry, and pet foods.

Recyclers

The following renderers serve the Lincoln-Lancaster County area producing by-products such as those listed above. These companies generally place special containers at a facility and provide a route pickup service to contracted businesses. To enroll for their services, you must call each company and make arrangements for them to collect and recycle the type of waste you are generating. Beneath each name is a list of the materials that business collects. **None of them collect grease-trap waste** because it may contain contaminants that would get into the animal feed products the renderers manufacture.

Darling International, Midwest Division—Main office, Omaha (800-747-7401)
Bellevue Plant - (402) 291-8800 - Animal by-products, cooking oil
Wahoo Plant - (402) 443-3777 - Accepts only dead cows and pigs

Platte River By-Products—(800) 652-9381
Does **not** collect cooking oil or grease. Accepts only dead cows and pigs.

Disposal Options

Recycling is the best and most preferred option for handling used cooking oils or greases. However, if you absolutely cannot recycle the wastes, disposal may be your only option.

Used cooking oils and greases are special wastes. Your business must submit an annual inventory to the Lincoln–Lancaster County Health Department (LLCHD) if your business generates **any** quantity of such wastes.

If your business generates less than one gallon per month *or* less than one pound per any load of these wastes, there is no need to obtain a permit nor to pay a fee when submitting a Special Waste Inventory. You may dispose of this waste in a dumpster **after** you have *solidified* it. One way to solidify used cooking oil is to add sawdust, cat litter box filler, or some other absorbent material to the waste. (***Wastes containing free liquids cannot go to the landfill.***)

If your business generates one gallon or more per month *or* one pound or more per any load of cooking oil and grease waste and you wish to dispose of that waste in the municipal landfill, you must apply for and obtain a Special Waste Disposal Permit. In order to obtain a permit, you must agree to solidify the waste prior to landfilling it. If you plan to place the waste in a commercial dumpster, your company will be responsible for making certain that the waste contains no free liquids. This waste must be able to pass a Paint Filter Liquids Test (EPA SW-846 Method 9095), as explained in LLCHD's factsheet *Guidelines for Disposing of Semi-Liquid Wastes* (May, 1995). The LLCHD Special Waste program, (402) 441-8002, can provide more information.

If your business would like to have the waste transported to the municipal wastewater treatment plant, you can call a liquid waste hauler named in the list given below. The liquid waste hauler will handle the permitting process for you at the time of service. Your company is still required to submit an annual Special Waste Inventory to LLCHD.