

Food Code Fact Sheet #35

What you should know about the Code

WWW.HEALTHOREGON.ORG
/FOODSAFETY

Mobile Food Unit Wastewater Disposal

OAR 333-150-0000, CHAPTER 5-402.14

Removing Mobile Food Establishment Wastes

Sewage and other liquid wastes shall be removed from a mobile food establishment at an approved waste servicing area or by a sewage transport vehicle in such a way that a public health hazard or nuisance is not created.

(A) Mobile food units that generate only gray water liquid wastes may hand-carry those wastes to a specific disposal location approved by the regulatory authority.

(B) The waste transport container must be designed and intended to hold and transport gray water without leaks or spills and have a capacity no greater than 20 gallons.

PUBLIC HEALTH REASONS:

Statewide there are challenges with non-integral items sitting on the ground around mobile units creating harborage sites for insects and rodents. Because of this, we have strengthened enforcement for these violations with the support of members of the Rule Advisory Committee.

Additionally, off unit water tanks became a public health problem with wastewater spillage and improper disposal on site, contaminating storm drainage and polluting our lakes and rivers.

Background

Some mobile food units and mobile unit pods are using large, above ground wastewater tanks to store their wastewater.

These above ground storage tanks have never been allowed in rule, and their use has caused problems with spills, leaks and providing water for rodents and pests.



After consultation with mobile food unit operators, partners and regulators, the Food Sanitation Rules were strengthened to allow for enforcement on these unapproved tanks.

Talk to your local inspector immediately to develop a plan to come into compliance with this rule. Example compliance plans are available online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/OHA/PH/HEALTHYENVIRONMENTS/FOODSAFETY/Pages/mobile.aspx>

Disposal Methods

Statewide there are various options for disposal. Some examples include:

- Driving your mobile food unit to an approved disposal location.
- Adding a second onboard wastewater tank connected to your existing tank to increase capacity.
- Connecting to approved sewage disposal system.
- RV dumping stations.
- The mop sink in your licensed commissary.
- Pumping of tanks by a licensed hauler.
- Hand carrying waste water in 20 gallon tanks designed to hold/transport gray water without leaks or spills. Plastic buckets or other containers are not allowed.



Hand carry containers may not exceed a capacity of 20 gallons. Operators may use more than one container if needed, but they must be emptied daily.

Finding a licensed pumper in your area:

[https://
www.deq.state.or.us/wq/
onsite/sdssearch.asp](https://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/onsite/sdssearch.asp)

If your hauler's equipment produces too much pressure for your smaller tanks, you can consider a small container like this to empty wastewater into during pumping so a vacuum isn't created:



This type of container must be able to be easily moved and stored inside the unit at the end of the day.

Locations for wastewater dump stations throughout Oregon where on-unit waste water tanks and hand-carry containers can be emptied:

[https://www.rvdumps.com/
category/dump-stations/?](https://www.rvdumps.com/category/dump-stations/?)

[https://rvshare.com/
dumpstations/oregon](https://rvshare.com/dumpstations/oregon)

<https://sanidumps.com/>

[https://www.campendium.com/
oregon/dump-stations](https://www.campendium.com/oregon/dump-stations)

These sites are provided to help mobile food unit operators find resources, but are not endorsed or approved by OHA or your local LPHA.

Other options:

Be sure to get approval from your inspector before disposing of waste water in a new location.

With permission from the owner and your inspector, you can also use a nearby grocery store, restaurant or other licensed facility's mop sink.

Wastewater disposal tanks may not be stored in other vehicles, like the back of a pickup truck. All off-unit tanks must be emptied at the end of each day.