

# Instructions for Use and Maintenance of Oil and Grease Separators

## Function

The oil and grease separators operate under the principle of gravity. Oil, petrol, fuel oil, lubricants, heating oil and other light liquids have lower specific weight than water, a fact exploited by oil separators by reducing the velocity and flow of torrential or meteoric water, causing light-liquid particles to separate and rise to the surface. The filtered water thus safely flows through the outflow into the sewerage system, protecting the groundwater from potential pollutants.

## Maintenance

At the beginning the amount of the extracted oil, grease or other light liquid must be monitored at least once a month; it is mandatory after every unexpected event, such as rainfall, flooding, etc. Afterwards control intervals are determined based on the actual load of the oil or grease separator. Light liquids, accumulated inside the chamber for oil and grease removal, must be removed before the thickness of the layer exceeds 10 centimetres. The thickness of the layer is measured with an aluminium measuring staff, coated with water paste. When the marginal quantity limit is reached, the extracted oil/light liquids must be drained. The removal can be executed through the entrance opening or the oil and grease separator cover. Cleaning is performed by the maintenance worker of the device, who makes sure the light-liquid waste is deposited properly and in accordance with the law to an appropriate location.

### Monthly maintenance inspection includes:

- review (and cleaning, if necessary) of the silt settler,
- review of the withheld oil or derivative layer and, if necessary, removal (depending on the thickness of the layer)
- cleaning of the automatic closure device of the outflow, if installed,
- extraction and cleaning, rinsing of the coalescing filter

Clean the filter pads at an appropriate place in the open, e.g. with steam. Take the needed amount of water from the silt settler and return it there after cleaning. Insert the cleaned filter in its original position in the oil separator and then fill the equipment with clean water to the bottom edge of the outlet pipe,

- the option of taking a control sample of wastewater at the outflow of the oil separator.

When you open the cover of the oil separator, you can easily take (with an appropriate ladle) individual samples of wastewater flowing into the sewerage system.

### Five-year maintenance inspection includes:

- water tightness of the system,
- the condition of the individual structural elements,
- the condition of all installed elements, especially seals.

# General Instructions

It is recommended that the cleaning and maintenance are carried out by a registered company, which must be familiarised with the instructions for operation and maintenance before the start of the work.

Due to the danger of explosion, it is forbidden to work with an open flame or to smoke in the near vicinity of the devices for the separation of mineral oils, especially after the removal of the cover for access to the oil separator.

Waste material, which is accumulated during the cleaning process, must not be released into the sewerage system, running or stagnant water, cleaning plants, sinking rivers or cesspits. It has to be given to an authorised company, which will take it to special waste collection points or to recycling.

## Substances, which cannot be routed into the device:

- household or domestic wastewater,
- larger amounts of meteoric water than considered when dimensioning the oil separator,
- materials which can obstruct the operation of the oil separator, e.g. chemical drying agents and substances with a lot of sediment or impurities,
- waxes and hot waxes, e.g. polymers for the protection of new cars,
- detergents, which form stable emulsions in the sewage, and non-standard cold detergents,
- sewage which does not flow peacefully, but vibrates, pulsates or reflects the operation of the pumps,
- hazardous liquid waste, such as oil emulsions of liquid derivatives, liquid contents of batteries and braking systems, antifreeze, anti-corrosion liquid, halogenated hydrocarbons, cold cleaning solvents.

All injuries observed on the oil separator must be fixed immediately. No changes of the construction design are allowed, as well as any interference with the system for the operation of the device or inflow increase.

It is necessary to monitor whether the maximum amount of accumulated oil in the tank of the separator, that is 10 cm, has already been reached. In this case, the accumulated oil has to be removed at once.



APLAST proizvodnja in trgovina d.o.o.  
Petrovče 115a, 3301 Petrovče, Slovenija  
t: +386 (0) 3 713 24 50 | f: +386 (0) 3 713 24 54  
info@aplast.si | www.aplast.si

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