



## ***Parking Garage Sand/Oil Interceptor Guidance***

Questions often arise concerning City of Austin approved Sand Oil interceptors, sizing, and design requirements. Use this as Austin Water's guidance regarding parking garages in mixed use/multifamily facilities.

### **Sand/Oil Interceptor Design Requirements**

Industrial waste does not regulate purely Multi-Family parking garages, and therefore, no Sand/Oil Interceptor (SOI) is required. However, Mixed Use Facilities with **enclosed parking garages** are required to have a SOI with a mud box or catch basin proposed upstream of the interceptor.

For SOIs, there are **no specific design requirements on the manufacturer type**. However, you may use the same design as the City of Austin's grease trap design criteria:

[https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/SSD/Pretreatment/wwwssd\\_iw\\_gt\\_concept\\_drwg.pdf](https://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Water/SSD/Pretreatment/wwwssd_iw_gt_concept_drwg.pdf)

When choosing a SOI, choose a design that is made of **non-corrodible** materials for longevity.

- **Examples of non-corrodible materials** include concrete or stainless steel. Our goal is for SOI longevity (15-20 years+), with minimal regulatory oversight or interventions.
- **Examples of corrodible materials include** steel [some descriptions include carbon, heavy duty, cold-rolled etc.], powder coating for heavy-duty [anti] corrosion protection, etc. Corrodible SOIs are made of metal, have a short life-span (~5 years), and will require frequent regulatory oversight or interventions.

When designing, please consider whether facilities can easily maintain the proposed design based on manufacturer's recommendations. Customers must follow the manufacturer's maintenance and cleaning recommendations for these pretreatment devices.

***If you have questions on whether your parking garage drains should be routed to sanitary or storm sewer, please review the Closed vs. Open Garage Section below.***

### **"Closed" vs. "Open" Parking Garage**

Please use the guidance below to determine whether your parking garage is considered "closed" or "open". This helps resolve whether the parking garage (or sections of the parking garage) must be routed to sanitary sewer or storm sewer.

### **Closed Garage**

Closed garages **will not receive** any rain/stormwater runoff per the City of Austin’s Code §15-10-22 (26). A parking garage or any garage floors which are completely enclosed, are considered “closed” and must route to **sanitary sewer**.

Some examples include:

- All below-ground parking garage floors.
- Floors enclosed on all sides by a surrounding structure or building(s).

### **Open Garage**

Open garages will receive rain/stormwater as defined by the City of Austin’s wastewater regulations §15-10-11 (19). Any parking garage floors which receive rain/stormwater runoff shall be considered “open” and shall route to the **storm sewer**; this includes both above and/or below-ground garage floors.

Some examples include:

- If the parking garage level has **any open sides**.
- **Drains at the entrance** of a parking garage.
- **Drains on the top floor** of an open roof parking garage.

### **Parking Garage Sand/Oil Interceptor Sizing Criteria**

Sand Oil Interceptors are sized based on the total number of drains discharging to them within enclosed parking garage structures. All floor drains and other plumbing fixtures in fully enclosed garages must be routed to a sand/oil interceptor.

Sand/Oil Interceptor sizing is based on the following:

Total Number of Drains	Minimum Sand/oil interceptor Size (liquid holding capacity)
≤15	250-gallons
16-34	500 gallons
≥35	750-gallons