

INSPECTIONS

WHY WE DO INSPECTIONS

Inframark performs inspections of water and wastewater facilities for two reasons. The first is to protect the assets of the district and municipalities. The second is to fulfill the requirements of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and protect the public's health.

GREASE TRAP, SANITARY SEWER, CSI AND BACKFLOW INSPECTIONS

GREASE TRAPS

Per the District's Rate Orders, one of the most well-known of these mandated inspections is the grease trap inspection for commercial properties. The term "grease trap" is a generic term that covers grease traps, sand traps, lint traps, oil interceptor or acid traps. The purpose of the grease trap is to capture fats, oils, grease, sand/silt or any other items that are not capable of being treated at a conventional wastewater treatment plant and can clog sewer lines.

Restaurants produce grease that can cause a sewer blockage. Recently, there was a grease blockage in a London sewer line. The "fatberg," as it was called, weighed 15 tons and was about 210 feet long. It took almost three weeks to clean out the blockage. That is what a working grease trap can prevent.

Grease traps are initially inspected upon installation. They are then typically inspected monthly and cleaned at least quarterly. The inspector verifies that the "T" drops are properly installed and there is no visible grease or solids passing through the outlet and sample well. The inspector also visually inspects the level of grease against the height of the "T" drops. The access lids are checked to ensure they are in good condition and that they do not allow rain or water runoff to enter the trap. The business is required to produce a manifest quarterly; or more often if required, to show that the trap has been cleaned and the removed liquids, grease or other items are sent to an approved location for proper disposal.

SANITARY SEWER

A key component is a sanitary sewer inspection which is performed to ensure that the required materials are being used and that the private sanitary line is properly run and connected with the district's sanitary collection system. Sanitary sewer inspections are performed during the initial tap into the district's sanitary sewer system or anytime repairs are made from the private line to the district's system. The sanitary sewer inspections purpose is to limit the potential for inflow of rain or infiltration of groundwater into the collection system which can overload a wastewater treatment plant.

CSI AND BACKFLOW

Two other mandated inspections are the Customer Service Inspection or CSI and backflow testing. Customer Service Inspections are completed before providing continuous water service to new construction or any existing service where there is reason to believe that cross-connections or another potential contaminant hazards may exist. Additionally, a CSI inspection is required when any material improvement, correction or addition is made to private water distribution facilities. More information on customer service inspections can be found at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing/licenses/csilic#certif>.

Backflow prevention testing is required annually on high health hazard applications and upon installation and after any repairs. Simply stated, backflow occurs when clean (potable) water

reverses direction causing suction that pulls dirty water into the clean water supply system. The dirty water can contain chemicals, fertilizer and even human waste. Anytime there is a cross-connection between potable and non-potable water, the chance of backflow exists. A backflow preventer is a series of check valves that prevent water from flowing backwards into the clean water supply during times of unequal water pressure or unique pressure fluctuations or conditions. Additional information on backflow testing can be found at: <https://www.tceq.texas.gov/licensing/licenses/bpatlic>

SITE INSPECTIONS - PRE AND FINAL

PRE-SITE

Before a residential or commercial builder begins construction on a property located in a district or municipality, Inframark does a pre-site survey. The purpose of the inspection is to review the condition of all district assets and note the condition or repair the assets. The survey is used to document that the facility was in good condition prior to construction. With the documentation, if a builder damages district or municipal facilities, the builder can be back charged once construction is complete. Commonly inspected components are storm and sanitary manholes, fire hydrants and their isolation valves, mainline valves and end of line blow offs.

FINAL SITE

When construction is completed, a final site survey is done. The inspector notes any damage to district owned facilities especially the storm and sanitary manholes, fire hydrants, isolation valves, mainline valves and end of line blow-offs. Any damages that were not noted during the pre-site survey are noted. A work order is created and it is repaired. All costs of the repair are back charged to the builder.

These inspections are not only critical to the safe and efficient running of a water and wastewater system, but they are required by many District Rate Orders. While they occur quietly and in the background, they make sure that all TCEQ standards are being met and the infrastructure is maintained to the highest Inframark standards.

On behalf of the Texas MUD Leadership Team

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