



Contra Costa Environmental Health
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INDIRECT WASTE DRAINAGE

The California Health and Safety Code required indirect drainage for certain types of liquid waste. This includes drainage wastes from steam tables, ice machines, steam-jacketed kettles, ice bins, food preparation sinks, soda machines, utensil washing sinks, display cases, refrigeration units (except those utilizing an evaporator unit) and other similar equipment. These types of units must drain to the sewer via an indirect waste receptacle such as a floor sink or funnel drain.

Indirect waste receptacles provide an air gap separation in the drainage system. The purpose of indirect drainage is to prevent sewage from backing up into the unit being drained which could expose food products to sewage.

Indirect waste receptacles must be placed in well-ventilated and well-lit areas and situated so they are readily accessible for inspection and cleaning. Their placement must not cause a sanitation problem. They are **not** to be located inside or under cabinets, inside walk-in refrigeration units, or in areas of the building not in regular use by the occupants. When receptacles are installed underneath equipment they are to be installed near the front edge of the equipment with sufficient clearance between the receptacle and the overlaying equipment to allow ready inspection and cleaning.

Attached are some examples of indirect waste drainage. Before installing or modifying any indirect waste drainage, contact Contra Costa Environmental Health. It is also recommended that you contact the local building department regarding their permitting requirements.

Please note that some building departments do not allow the installation of funnel drains and will require floor sinks. Contra Costa Environmental Health recommends that floor sinks be installed flush with the surrounding floor, but some building departments require they be off-set so the rim of the sink is slightly above the floor.