INDIRECT WASTE DRAINAGE

The California Health and Safety Code require indirect drainage for certain types of liquid waste. This includes liquid waste from steam tables, ice machines, steam-jacketed kettles, ice bins, food preparation sinks, utensil washing sinks (unless the local building inspection department requires in writing), a direct drain for utensil sinks), soda machines, espresso machines, refrigeration units (except those utilizing an evaporator unit) and other similar equipment. This type of equipment must drain to the sewer via a one-inch minimum air gap to a floor sink or other approved indirect waste receptor. The purpose of indirect drainage is to prevent sewage from backing up into the unit being drained, which could expose food products to sewage.

Floor sinks or other indirect waste receptors must be readily accessible for cleaning (including direct access without removing any panel, door or similar obstruction). Overflow from indirect waste receptors shall be prevented from flowing into inaccessible areas. 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. All floor sinks or receptors at, under or near elevated (6-inch minimum elevation) freestanding or floor-mounted equipment, including counters or cabinets, must be at least half-exposed or be within 3-inches of a readily accessible side of the equipment.

Where floor sinks or receptors are located at or near the edge of counters or cabinets that have a toe-kick base, the base of the counter or cabinet must recess in along the sides and back of the floor sinks or receptors and the toe-kick/floor junctures in the recessed areas must have an approved integral coved base. Provide easily removable (without the use of tools) approved grates on exposed floor sinks that are partially or completely in traffic areas.

Please note that some building inspection departments may not allow the installation of funnel drains and may require floor sinks. Contra Costa Environmental Health recommends that floor sinks be installed flush with the surrounding floor (some building inspection departments may require that they be elevated so the rim of the floor sink is slightly above the floor). Contact the local building inspection departments regarding any floor sink installation requirements they may have. All floor sinks that are elevated (not flush with the floor) must have an approved integral, continuous coved base with at least 3/8-inch radius coving at the floor/floor sink juncture; the floor surface shall extend up the sides of the floor sink up to a height of four inches (depending on how high the floor sink is elevated).

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 inspection department regarding their permitting requirements.
Indirect Waste Drainage

Wash in detergent
Rinse in clear water
Sanitize

Detail of discharge pipe above floor sink

1 inch air gap minimum
Tile installed flush with floor sink
Front view of funnel drain installation for a 3-compartment sink

Side view of an indirect connection using a funnel drain
Example of floor sink elevated above floor level

Quarry or ceramic tile with 3/8 inch radius integral (not topset) tile cove base, or other approved floor and cove base

Floor sinks may be required to be elevated above floor level by some building inspection departments. Floor sinks may be flush with the floor (preferred by Contra Costa Environmental Health) if allowed by the local building inspection department.