Installation & Operation Instructions
For Big Dipper Internal Strainer (IS) Series Units

Big Dipper W-200-IS Servicing
A Pre-Rinse Sink

Big Dipper W-200-IS Servicing
A 3-Compartment Sink

* Please consult Thermaco, Inc. for specific models tested, certified and/or listed by these organizations.

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Big Dipper® Internal Strainer (IS) System Overview

The Thermaco, Inc. Big Dipper® Automatic Grease and Oils Removal System removes free-floating grease & oils from kitchen drain water flows. As most food service facility managers already know, grease buildup within a building’s plumbing drainage system is a major cause of problems due to drain line blockages. These problems jeopardize normal operations as well as create health and safety hazards within the facility itself.

The proper installation of a Big Dipper System can reduce or eliminate grease problems. Use of the Big Dipper assures minimization and/or elimination of costly sewer surcharges and fines through efficient separation and removal of free-floating grease & oils. In addition, the Big Dipper also helps reduce or eliminate pumping and disposal costs associated with conventional grease traps or interceptors. The recovered grease & oils are substantially water-free and are suitable for recycling by local rendering and/or biodiesel companies.

The Big Dipper system is an automatic, self-cleaning device. As greasy kitchen effluent drains from kitchen fixtures, the unit traps the grease & oils. These separate from the effluent and rise to the surface of the separator tank. The unit automatically skims the trapped grease & oils and transfers the grease & oils to a collection container. A timer controls the self cleaning operation, activating the skimming wheel at a user-set time. Only the “cleaned” water exits the unit and flows into the facility drain lines. The Big Dipper IS automatic systems operate most efficiently when servicing single fixtures such as a 1 to 3-compartment sink or a pre-rinse station.

The Big Dipper system’s compact footprint allows installation directly at the source where grease problems originate. The system design also allows easy maintenance and operation requiring only a minimal amount of daily and weekly maintenance to maintain peak operating performance.

The Big Dipper system design allows for maximum installation flexibility. Reversing the system operation is a simple as rotating the cover assembly of the unit.

Grease interceptors, grease traps, automatic recovery units, grease removal devices and other similar plumbing devices receiving kitchen flows from sinks, floor drains, woks and other food bearing sources may generate odors. There are many factors influencing odor evolution and dissemination. These include room ventilation, kitchen menu, ambient temperatures, ware washing practices, grease/oil input, daily input fluid volume, sanitizers, installation plumbing design and product maintenance/upkeep. Odors are usually prevented by good area ventilation, frequent fluid inputs, good product maintenance practices and proper product installation. Additional steps, including aeration, chlorination, improved area ventilation and additional maintenance control, may be needed at some sites.
Big Dipper® Internal Strainer (IS) System Maintenance

*CAUTION! DISCONNECT POWER TO UNIT BEFORE CLEANING to prevent damage to the unit and personal injury
*NOTE: Before energizing unit after cleaning, fill tank with water to protect wipers and heater from damage

Daily Maintenance:

(A) Empty the clear plastic grease/oils collection container (located beside the unit) prior to its becoming full once each day. The Big Dipper recovers grease and oil virtually water-free so that they can be recycled. The collector container should be washed periodically so as to maintain the easy viewing translucent characteristic of the collector.

(B) The internal strainer basket should be removed and emptied into a garbage container by shaking briskly. Wash the inside and outside surfaces of the strainer after emptying.

Weekly Maintenance:

(A) Check the collection trough and the wiper blades for any solids build-up. Wipe off any accumulated deposits and assure that the wiper blades are clipped in place properly.

(B) Check the Timer to be sure it is set and operating correctly.

(C) Check the thickness of the grease layer at the top of the unit. There should be no appreciable amount of grease or oil left in the tank immediately after the daily automatic skimming cycle. If there is more than a 1/2” (13 mm) thick layer of grease after the skimming cycle, this indicates a need to increase the skimming time. Increase the timer settings accordingly until a clean unit appearance is obtained after the automatic skimming cycle. (A simple guide is to increase the “on” time by 30 minutes for each 1” (25 mm) of grease layer observed after the skimming cycle).

Quarterly Maintenance:

(A) The internal strainer basket in the unit is designed to remove incidental solids from kitchen drain flows. Over a period of time, sediment consisting of very fine particles may begin to accumulate on the bottom of the unit. If this build-up is allowed to continue, it may eventually block the outlet baffle. To prevent this from occurring, remove the lid and stir the bottom of the unit with a long handled spatula while water is flowing to flush out the sediment. Occasionally drain and clean the unit thoroughly. Properly used, a wet-vac may be appropriate for this purpose.
Big Dipper® IS System Suggested Settings/Timer Operation

**TO SET TIMER:**

1. Push on/off tabs on the outer ring of timer inward into dial at desired “ON” times. 1 Tab = 15 minutes. Minimum of one (1) tab (15 minutes) **not to exceed 2 hours in a complete run cycle.**

2. Turn dial **CLOCKWISE** one or more complete revolutions until the present time is aligned with the time-of-day indicator point.

3. Fill the unit with water by turning on the sink water taps, then plug the Big Dipper unit into grounded electrical outlet.

4. Tabs pushed IN = ON  
   Tabs pushed OUT = OFF

**NOTE: IN CASE OF POWER FAILURE, RESET TIMER.** (See Step 2 above).

After the plumbing installation is complete, the Big Dipper unit needs to be set for the proper automatic self-cleaning operation for the facility. All Big Dipper IS models are equipped with a 24 Hour/96 Event time controller. This time controller is located under the lid of the motor housings mounted on top of the Big Dipper lid (See Pages labeled “Electrical Connection Detail” sketches of this location).

Depending upon the amount of accumulated grease and oils, the system may need to be reset to operate more or less time to skim all separated grease and oils. This can be determined by removing the top cover and observing the depth of the separated grease layer shortly after a cleaning cycle is completed. This layer should not be more than 1/2” (13 mm) thick. If this layer is consistently thicker, increase the operating times of the Big Dipper IS System by 30 minutes for each additional 1” (25 mm) of grease **not to exceed 2 hours in a complete run cycle.** If required, additional run cycles can be added throughout the day. Consequently, if there is any quantity of water in the grease collector, then the Big Dipper is operating too long. Decrease the amount of operating time by one tab (15 min.) at a time until no water is collected in the container.
**Big Dipper unit overflows**

1. Check to see that the outlet pipe is not reduced to a smaller size, the outlet piping is vented, has as few 90 degree outlet turns as possible, and that no “P” trap is installed on the outlet. Re-plumb the piping, if necessary. Check outlet piping for clogs. Have a plumber clean the line, if necessary.

2. Make sure that the solids strainer is in place and emptied daily.

3. Check the bottom of the grease chamber for excessive solids and silt buildup which may be blocking the outlet baffle. Disconnect the power and use a long handled spatula or similar instrument to stir the bottom while water flows through the unit. If necessary, drain and clean the sediment from the unit. To prevent recurrence, schedule this cleaning to be done on a regular basis (properly used, a wet vac may be appropriate for cleaning sediment from the bottom of the unit).

4. Make sure the flow rate to the unit does not exceed the maximum flow rate, which is shown on the nameplate. If necessary, have a plumber install an approved flow control to restrict the inlet flow to the specified level or install a properly sized Big Dipper for the application.

**Excessive water observed in the grease collection container**

1. Check Timer for excessive “on” time. Unit will pick up incidental water after all grease is removed.

2. Make sure that the water flow to the unit does not exceed the rated flow and there are no drain line clogs downstream from the unit.

**No grease is collected in the container**

1. Check to be sure the power is on and the time control is set correctly. The “on” time should be no less than 15 minutes per day. There is a Power Indicator Light under the Timer which indicates that Power is reaching the unit. If this light is not Red, power is not reaching the unit.

2. Remove the lid and clean away any buildup that may be present on the wiper blades or collection trough. Make sure the wiper blade(s) are properly in place on the skimmer wheels. Replace wiper blades when worn or warped.

3. Set the time control to the “ON” position & ensure that the skimmer turns. CAUTION: Keep your hands away from moving parts to avoid possible injury. If the skimmer motor does not come on, the motor assembly must be replaced.

4. Check for congealed grease in the unit. If the Big Dipper’s heating element is not warming the unit, the heating element must be replaced.

5. Some sites do not generate enough grease to be captured by the skimming process. Set Timer for minimum operation - 1 Tab (15 Min.)

**Objectionable odor**

1. Make sure grease/oil is being skimmed properly from the unit.

2. Check the timer settings for excessive “on” time. Also check to see if any water is collected in the grease collector. Reduce operating time until water is no longer observed in the grease collector.

3. If excessive sediment has collected on the bottom of the unit, clean the unit as described in item 3 in “Big Dipper unit overflows.”

4. Clean the solids strainer and grease collection container more frequently.

5. Grease interceptors, grease traps, automatic recovery units, grease removal devices and other similar plumbing devices receiving kitchen flows from sinks, floor drains, woks and other food bearing sources may generate odors. There are many factors influencing odor evolution and dissemination. These include room ventilation, kitchen menu, ambient temperatures, ware washing practices, grease/oil input, daily input fluid volume, sanitizers, installation plumbing design and product maintenance/upkeep. Odors are usually prevented by good area ventilation, frequent fluid inputs, good product maintenance practices and proper product installation. Additional steps, including aeration, chlorination, improved area ventilation and additional maintenance control, may be needed at some sites.
1) Unlatch the Unit lid. Pull the side wings outward.

2) Lift the center module up off of the unit, ensuring clearance for the heater.

3) Rotate the center module 180°.

4) Lower the center module back down on top of the unit. Move the two side wings back into place & fasten all latches.

*ALWAYS UNPLUG UNIT BEFORE REMOVING LID
*SYSTEM WILL NOT OPERATE UNLESS CENTER MODULE IS IN PLACE
Locating the Unit
To minimize grease build-up in piping, a Big Dipper system should be located as close as possible to the fixture it is serving. The system should be visible and easily accessible for maintenance and inspection. The unit must be in a level position. Be sure to check the Specification Sheet for your model for the exact clearances needed for installation. If the system is located directly on the floor, the bottom should be sealed to the floor with an approved silicone type sealant. Make sure the height above the Internal Strainer access cover is enough to remove the strainer basket.

Inlet/Outlet Piping
The inlet and outlet piping connections require flexible sleeve pipe couplings. Keep outlet piping as straight as possible. Use only “sweep” connections. Do not reduce the pipe sizing on the outlet piping. Do not install “P” trap on outlet connection of system. (Note: The system already has an internal gas trap)

Flow Controls
Big Dipper systems are equipped with an internal flow control located inside the inlet end of the system. Verify its location and placement prior to connecting the inlet piping.

Fill Unit With Water Before Applying Power
Big Dipper systems, equipped with an electric heating element, MUST be filled with water before energizing the power to the system. Failure to do so may damage the electric heating element. These elements will NOT be replaced under Thermaco’s Warranty.

Venting the Outlet
An outlet vent or approved vacuum breaker of at least 1/2 the diameter of the system’s outlet connection must be present as close as possible to the Big Dipper outlet to prevent possible siphonage problems. Failure to provide a vent for the system voids Thermaco’s Warranty for the system.

For High Head Height Applications Over Six (6) Feet (1.95 m)
Big Dipper systems are equipped with an internal flow regulator located inside the inlet end of the system. Verify its location and placement prior to connecting the inlet piping. If your code requires a vertical type flow regulator, an approved control with a flow rating matching the system’s flow rate should be used. Note: When a Big Dipper is servicing multiple fixtures, some codes require separate flow controls for each fixture. See following page for suggested high head height flow regulation installation.

Do Not Use With Food Grinders, Potato Peelers or Waste Disposal Units
If the system is connected to a Waste Disposal Unit, Garbage Grinder or Potato Peeler, Thermaco’s Warranty will be void.

Note: Drawing for reference only. Equipment must be installed in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and codes, including plumbing codes. Installation should be performed by a qualified plumber.
Big Dipper® IS System Plumbing Installation
(For Installations With Head Height Greater Than 6 feet (1.95m))

For installations where there is a significant amount of head height (More than 6 ft./1.95 m), Thermaco, Inc. recommends installation of the optional VFCA Vented Flow Control module.

Flow Control Vent/Air Intake
(Note: Flow Control Vent may be independent direct connect to atmosphere or code-approved air admittance valve. To be installed above sink flood rim.)
NEVER CONNECT TO FACILITY VENT

Outlet Vent
(Note: Vent may be facility vent connection or code-approved air admittance valve)

* Installation in high head height locations requires removal of the Internal Flow Control (small rubber cap under no-hub coupling over the Inlet).

Drainage Piping from Kitchen
VFCA-15 Vented Flow Control for W-150-IS
VFCA-20 Vented Flow Control for W-200-IS
VFCA-25 Vented Flow Control for W-250-IS
VFCA-35 Vented Flow Control for W-350-IS
VFCA-50 Vented Flow Control for W-500-IS

Installations where head height is greater than 6 feet (1.95 m)

Optional P-Trap

NOTE: Drawing for reference only. Equipment must be installed in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and codes, including plumbing codes. Installation should be performed by a qualified plumber.

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Big Dipper® IS System Electrical Installation

Big Dipper Internal Strainer (IS) Models

Big Dipper Internal Strainer Series Models utilize one 24 hour time controller. The timer is located under the hinged lid of the motor enclosure on top of the lid of Big Dipper (See Timer Operation Instructions). The Big Dipper should only be plugged into a properly grounded 3-prong 120 VAC outlet. If possible, the power supply outlet for the Big Dipper should be connected to an electrical circuit controlled by a ground fault circuit breaker.

There is a Power Indicator Light that will glow Red if power is being fed to the unit. If this light is off, power is not reaching the unit.

This Big Dipper unit is shipped from the Factory wired for Simultaneous Operation. This means the Heater and Motor operate at the same time under timer control. Continuous Heater Operation is where the Heater is active at all times. To switch to Continuous Heater Operation, switch the RED WIRE on the THERMOSTAT with the BLACK WIRE. (Instructions are on the wiring Diagram in the electrical enclosure.

Note: The Big Dipper unit will not operate when the lid is removed.

Big Dipper Electrical Requirements
4.5 Amps @ 120 VAC 60Hz (520 Watts)

Note: Time Clock Supplied with system.
Drawing for reference only. Equipment must be installed in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations and codes, including electrical codes. Installation should be performed by a qualified electrician.
Wiring Diagram For Big Dipper Models
W-150-IS Through W-500-IS

NOTE:
220-240V Units (International Units) have the following wire color changes:
On the POWER SUPPLY CORD:
The Black Wire becomes Brown
The White Wire becomes Blue
The Green Wire becomes Yellow/Green

GROUND WIRE ATTACHED TO HEATER
FULLY INSULATED QUICK CONNECT TO CHANGE HEATER OPERATING MODE. RED WIRE TO THERMOSTAT GIVES SIMULTANEOUS HEATER/MOTOR OPERATION. BLACK WIRE TO THERMOSTAT GIVES CONTINUOUS HEATER OPERATION.
RING TERMINALS TO GROUND STUD ON MOTOR MOUNT BRACKET
INTERCHANGE FULLY INSULATED QUICK CONNECTORS TO CHANGE HEATER OPERATING MODE. RED WIRE TO THERMOSTAT GIVES SIMULTANEOUS HEATER/MOTOR OPERATION. BLACK WIRE TO THERMOSTAT GIVES CONTINUOUS HEATER OPERATION.
Piggy-Back Connector

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MNL-IS14000.11
Big Dipper® IS System Component Identification

Big Dipper Internal Strainer (IS) Lid Components (With Covers In Place)

Hinged Skimming Wheel Cover
Flow Control (Covering Inlet)
Strainer Basket Cover
Power Indicator Light
Grease Collector
Inlet
Outlet
Motor/Electrical Cover
Timer Cover

Big Dipper Internal Strainer (IS) Lid Components (With Wheel Cover Removed)

Skimming Wheel Assembly Part #PDA-3
Safety Switch (Under Motor Cover) Part #MSS-5
Wheel Drive Sprocket Part #WDS-3
Wiper Blades (2) Part #PB-3
Wheel Wiper Assembly Part #WWA-3
Inlet
Outlet

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Big Dipper® IS System Replacement Parts

SOLIDS STRAINER BASKET
FOR MODEL# USE PART#
W-150-IS THROUGH W-250-IS ST-20
W-350-IS & W-500-IS ST-57

TIMER (Under Cover)
FOR ALL MODELS USE PART# ETC-1

NOT SHOWN:
MOTOR (1 per unit)
PART# M-58

HEATER (1 per unit)
PART# H-7

THERMOSTAT (1 per unit)
PART# TSTAT-4

INTERNAL FLOW CONTROL (1 per unit)
PART# MFC-15 FOR W-150-IS
PART# MFC-20 FOR W-200-IS
PART# MFC-25 FOR W-250-IS
PART# MFC-35 FOR W-350-IS
PART# MFC-50 FOR W-500-IS

LID GASKET
PART# RG-7

WIPER BLADES (2 per unit)
PART# PB-3

WHEEL WIPER ASSEMBLY (1 per unit)
PART# WWA-3

WHEEL DRIVE SPROCKET (1 per unit)
PART# WDS-3

SKIMMING WHEEL ASSEMBLY (1 per unit)
PART# PDA-3

PROPERLY DISPOSE OF CONTENTS DAILY

GREASE/OILS COLLECTION CONTAINER
FOR W-150-IS THROUGH W-500-IS USE PART# GC-7

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Thermaco, Inc. warrants to the original user that the products manufactured by it delivered with this warranty shall be free from material defects in workmanship and materials for a period of 12 months from the date of invoice to the distributor (if sold by an authorized Thermaco distributor) or the date of invoice to the purchaser (if sold directly by Thermaco, Inc.), but in no event longer than 15 months from date of shipment from Thermaco’s production facility.

Any claim must be made in writing to Thermaco at 646 Greensboro Street, Asheboro, NC 27203 promptly after discovery of the defect and within the applicable warranty period. The product must be delivered, prepaid, to Thermaco, together with proof of purchase, the serial number from which the item was removed and a return authorization number issued by Thermaco. If Thermaco determines upon examination that the component is defective and that the warranty conditions are met, Thermaco’s sole obligation under this warranty, and the purchaser’s sole and exclusive remedy, is the repair or replacement, at Thermaco’s option, of the defective component, including parts and labor. The replacement will be furnished F.O.B. point of shipment. If Thermaco determines that the component is not defective or that the other conditions of this warranty are not met, then any return of such part to the purchaser shall be at purchaser’s cost.

This warranty shall not cover any defect in otherwise covered products resulting directly or indirectly from: (i) failure to properly install, operate or maintain the product in accordance with Thermaco’s instructions and procedures, including, without limitation, use in excess of rated flow, operation without timer control, improper electrical service, use to remove emulsified fats and oils or use that fails to comply with applicable laws, regulations or codes; (ii) damage in transit, handling or installation; (iii) modifications, adjustments, repairs, or alterations made by unauthorized persons; or (iv) other causes not arising out of defects in workmanship or materials. Thermaco shall not be responsible for damage to products resulting from vault flooding, sewer line back-up, pumping or lift station failure, ambient water flow or other sources of water damage. This warranty does not cover equipment or parts not manufactured by Thermaco. Purchaser’s costs relating to any service, adjustment, removal, repair, packing, or otherwise incurred with respect to the defect prior to submission for warranty are the responsibility of purchaser.

No distributor, sales person or other person is authorized to make any warranty statements on behalf of Thermaco regarding Thermaco products other than as set forth in this warranty. This statement of warranty supersedes any quote, brochure, or other statement or document with respect to warranty of Thermaco products.

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY SET FORTH ABOVE, THERMACO, INC. MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS, WARRANTIES OR GUARANTEES, EITHER EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, AS TO MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE, WHETHER OR NOT THERMACO HAD KNOWLEDGE OF PURCHASER’S PARTICULAR REQUIREMENTS OR NEEDS, OR WITH RESPECT TO ODOR GENERATION OR OTHER INCIDENTALS RELATING TO USE OF THE PRODUCT.

The sole and exclusive remedy with respect to this warranty any other claim relating to defects or any other condition or use of Thermaco products, however caused, and whether such claim is based upon warranty, contract, tort, strict liability or any other theory, is LIMITED to the repair or replacement of the product, excluding labor or any other cost to remove or install said the product or, at Thermaco’s option, repayment of the purchase price. IN NO EVENT SHALL THERMACO, INC. BE LIABLE, WHETHER IN CONTRACT, WARRANTY, TORT (INCLUDING NEGLIGENCE), STRICT LIABILITY, INDEMNITY OR ANY OTHER LEGAL THEORY, FOR INCIDENTAL OR CONSEQUENTIAL DAMAGES, OR FOR ANY OTHER LOSS OR COST OF A SIMILAR TYPE. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES WILL THE AGGREGATE LIABILITY OF THERMACO FOR ANY CAUSE OF ACTION RELATED TO THE PRODUCTS COVERED HEREBY EXCEED THE NET PURCHASE PRICE RECEIVED BY THERMACO FOR THE PRODUCTS. Any action or suit by purchaser against Thermaco relating to Thermaco products must be brought within one (1) year of the date of the invoices referenced above. The exclusions and limitations set forth herein are separate and independent from any remedies which purchaser may have hereunder and shall be given full force and effect whether or not any or all such remedies shall be deemed to have failed of their essential purpose.