

# AVAYA STADIUM: A **BIG DIPPER**® CASE STUDY A THERMACO® Technology



## Why A Pro Sports Venue Chose The Big Dipper

Professional sports venues need grease interceptors. Take the 18,000-seat Avaya Stadium in San Jose, home of the Earthquakes, a Major League Soccer franchise, for example.

### THE PROBLEM

Concession stands at Avaya Stadium feature plenty of traditional American fan favorites: hamburgers, sausages, pizza and more. That means a major byproduct is grease. Several kitchens scattered around the stadium each supply 3-4 concession stands. In addition, the stadium is home to the largest outdoor bar in North America.

Each kitchen needed a grease interceptor to keep the stadium in compliance with local, state and federal clean water regulations. Engineers faced a tricky challenge, deciding on the best grease interceptor for a large, spread-out facility.



### Concrete Interceptors Meant Pipe Problems

As engineers drew up plans for the stadium, which opened in 2015, they realized traditional concrete interceptors would make stadium design, construction and maintenance more complex and more expensive.

Pipes would run from the kitchens to large, centrally located interceptors. Keeping the clog-prone pipes clean would increase maintenance costs — not good for a project that was already costing more than originally planned. The engineers wanted to present a better option to their client.

Instead of traditional, concrete interceptors, they proposed automatic grease interceptors that could operate in each kitchen and be easily maintained by staff on site. No extra pipes — or pipe maintenance — would be required.

# THE SOLUTION

Thermaco's Big Dipper Automatic Grease Interceptor was the obvious choice, says Wade Sorensen, sales engineer at Northstar Environmental, who worked with the engineers on the Avaya Stadium project.

Big Dippers, which come in a variety of sizes, are easy to install even in tight, space-constrained kitchens.

Their design makes them easy for kitchen staff to service, eliminating the need for pump trucks — or lengthy pipes to carry grease from a kitchen to a centrally located in-ground interceptor. Staff simply remove the grease collector, empty them into a rendering barrel, and put them back on.



The design-build firm handling stadium construction didn't require a lot of persuasion. The company, Turner Construction, had already seen 48 Big Dippers in action at the San Francisco 49ers' Levi's Stadium. Turner had worked on that project, too, so they were familiar with the Big Dipper technology.

Approval from local regulators was also straightforward, thanks to the Big Dipper's proven performance and track record.

"We have been regularly meeting with the City of San Jose and Santa Clara County building officials and wastewater officials," Sorensen says. "Through this work over the years, they are all familiar with our systems and have had no problems with their approvals when appropriate."

The easy approval meant one less headache for the engineering firm and the stadium owners as they navigated the complex process of building and opening a brand new sports stadium.

*WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT Automatic Grease Interceptors and why they've become the choice of demanding facilities such as Avaya Stadium, Levi's Stadium, Capital One Center and others?*

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# THE RESULTS

The Earthquakes are now in their third year of play at Avaya stadium, and Sorensen says there have been no complaints from stadium officials.

Other professional sports teams in the area are also taking advantage of the Big Dipper's flexibility and easy maintenance.

Besides the 49ers and the Earthquakes, 14 Big Dippers have been installed at the Capital One Center, home of the Sacramento Kings, and Oracle Arena, home of the Golden State Warriors.

If you're running a professional sports team, like the Earthquakes, you want fans to show up, have a great time and enjoy the food and beverages. You don't want to deal with plumbing problems, maintenance headaches or, worst-of-all, the prospect of having to close concession stands because a kitchen is out-of-commission. Big Dipper helps you achieve the ultimate home field advantage.