
Guideline

Trade Waste Management



What is trade waste?

Trade Waste is waste generated from commercial and industrial activities and may include dangerous substances and hazardous chemicals. It does not include domestic wastewater from residential premises or wastewater generated by persons using domestic fixtures within a workplace.

What are the issues?

The right to discharge Trade Waste to sewers is not automatic because it could harm SA Water workers and infrastructure, public health or the environment.

Trade Waste is not allowed to enter stormwater drains.

Trade Waste must either be disposed of by a licensed waste contractor or by acquiring a Trade Waste Authorisation authorising the discharge of liquid Trade Waste to sewer. Please discuss your disposal requirements with a representative from SA Water. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) contain advice on how hazardous substances must be disposed of.

Trade Waste likely to occur at Adelaide and Parafield Airports are presented in the following table.

| Types of Trade Wastes | Description |
|---|--|
| Petroleum hydrocarbons | <p>Found in diesel, petrol, solvents, liquefied petroleum gas, engine oil, grease and degreasers.</p> <p>Associated with activities such as vehicle washing, equipment maintenance.</p> <p>Discharging these substances directly to sewer is strictly prohibited.</p> <p>Waste water must be pre-treated before disposal to sewer.</p> <p>Grease traps/plate separators are to be regularly cleaned out by a contractor.</p> <p>Waste oil requires disposal via a licensed waste contractor.</p> <p>EPA waste tracking forms are to be kept.</p> |
| Metals (lead, zinc, copper, iron, chromium, nickel and aluminium) | <p>Found in leaded petrol, radiators, batteries and the residue from chemically cleaning engine blocks.</p> <p>Release to sewer is strictly controlled.</p> |
| Chlorinated solvents and phenols | <p>Found in de-carbonising solutions and degreasers.</p> <p>Pose a significant health risk therefore cannot be disposed of via sewer.</p> <p>Store unwanted solvents in a container with tight fitting lids until collected by a licensed contractor.</p> <p>Should not be allowed to evaporate as a means of disposal.</p> <p>EPA waste tracking forms are to be kept.</p> |
| Surfactants | <p>Found in detergents and other cleaning products, including biodegradable products.</p> <p>These products in uncontrolled quantities interfere with sewerage treatment processes and therefore are strictly controlled.</p> <p>Activities such as vehicle or equipment washing will generate surfactant wastes.</p> |

| Types of Trade Wastes | Description |
|------------------------------------|--|
| Oily rags and used oil containers | <p>Generated from plant and vehicle maintenance.</p> <p>Oily rags and empty oil containers are classified as hazardous waste and need to be disposed of via a licensed waste contractor.</p> <p>Separate labelled bins in the workshop should be provided for disposal of oily rags and empty oil containers.</p> <p>Under no circumstances should oil be disposed of into the stormwater drains or directly into sewer.</p> <p>EPA waste tracking forms are to be kept.</p> |
| Greasy waste water and food wastes | <p>Generated from food preparation at fast food restaurants, catering facilities, cafes, coffee shops and hotels.</p> <p>Waste water that contains grease and suspended solids (food particles) needs to be pre-treated (e.g. grease trap) prior to disposal to sewer.</p> <p>Treatment devices must be regularly cleaned out by a licensed waste contractor for off-site disposal.</p> |

What is a Trade Waste Authorisation and who needs one?

It is an offence to discharge any substance into the sewer network, which is owned by SA Water, without the written agreement of SA Water in the form of a Trade Waste Authorisation.

A Trade Waste Authorisation is an agreement between a business that wishes to dispose of its Trade Waste liquids to sewer and SA Water.

A Trade Waste Authorisation will normally specify:

- The type and quantity of Trade Waste liquid that may be disposed to sewer
- The type and level of treatment the Trade Waste liquid must undergo before discharge to the sewer is permitted.
- The type and frequency of maintenance of any Trade Waste treatment facility required
- The type and frequency of monitoring of the Trade Waste being disposed to sewer and monitoring must be carried out as outlined in the agreement.

Businesses holding a Trade Waste Authorisation are subject to periodic audits by SA Water, based on risk, to ensure compliance with Authorisation conditions and regulations, and to confirm operator details. Additional audits may be required if non-compliant.

It is a legal requirement for businesses to apply for and comply with the conditions in their Trade Waste Authorisation under the *Water Industry Act 2012* and *Water Industry Regulations 2012*. Charges apply to operators who exceed minimum thresholds relating to disposal.

A fee applies, to cover the cost of establishing and processing applications from customers who seek permission to discharge waste water to sewer.

To check if you have an Authorisation, or if you need to apply for an Authorisation contact the Trade Waste Branch of SA Water on 7424 1336.

Licensed waste contractors

When disposing of Trade Waste via a licensed waste contractor ensure:

- The waste contractor is appropriately licensed
- The waste is being sent to a facility that can lawfully take it
- Collection receipts are retained for at least 3 years
- As part of the disposal process the contractor will provide an EPA Waste Tracking Form which needs to be kept on file

How should Trade Waste be stored?

Trade Waste should be stored under cover, in a bunded and covered area to prevent any spills entering the stormwater network or reaching soil.

Further Information

- Guidelines for Aircraft Washing at Adelaide Airport
- SA Water Commercial Food Preparation and Service – Trade Waste Guideline
- SA Water Radiator Repairers – Trade Waste Guideline
- SA Water Vehicle Washing – Trade Waste Guideline
- SA Water Discharge of Air Compressor Condensate Water to Sewer – Trade Waste Guideline
- *Water Industry Act 2012*
- *Water Industry Regulations 2012*
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