



TRADE WASTE - CATEGORY 2

MECHANICAL CONTAMINANTS

Wastewater from mechanical workshops may contain various contaminants; including fuels, solvents, heavy metals, battery acids, flammable substances, caustic cleaners, coolants, paints, fillers, grit, and residue. Improper management of this wastewater can lead to pollution of waterways, damage to sewer systems and wastewater treatment facilities, and potential health and safety risks for sewerage system workers.

PRE-TREATMENT/DISPOSAL OPTIONS

Select the option that best suits your business needs from the following:

PRE-TREATMENT / DISPOSAL OPTION	DESCRIPTION
DRY PROCESS	The work area is not connected to sewer or stormwater systems, and there is no floor drain or wash bay. This method poses minimal risk to the sewerage system and avoids costs associated with pre-treatment compliance.
ON-SITE COLLECTION OR RECYCLING OF WASTEWATER	Wastewater from trade or manufacturing processes must be collected onsite and not released to sewer or stormwater systems, except for wastewater from an approved hand wash basin.
DISCHARGE LIQUID WASTEWATER TO SEWER	The work area is connected to sewer but not to stormwater systems. Pre-treatment devices are required to reduce silt, oil, grease, and hydrocarbons entering the sewer.

DRY PROCESS OPTION

Description: The work area is not connected to sewer or stormwater systems, and there is no floor drain or wash bay. This method poses minimal risk to the sewerage system and avoids costs associated with pre-treatment compliance.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Obtain current trade waste approval.
- ✓ Wash soiled hands only at an approved hand washbasin that discharges to sewer; do not use other taps or hoses.
- ✓ Clearly sign the washbasin for hand washing.
- ✓ Install bunds to prevent rainwater and spills from escaping.
- ✓ Mop or sweep floors; do not use a hose.
- ✓ Ensure vehicles are within the bunded area before work begins.
- ✓ Use an approved parts washer for engine parts.
- ✓ Do not wash vehicles or equipment.
- ✓ Wipe up spills immediately and use trays to collect drips.
- ✓ Install bunding around oil storage areas.
- ✓ Collect and store radiator fluids, brake fluids, motor oils, solvents, paints, degreasers, and fuels separately for collection by an EPA approved Licensed Liquid Waste Transport Operator.
- ✓ Store batteries in a bunded area on a plastic pallet, and manage spills in a blind sump. Recycle batteries promptly.

ON-SITE COLLECTION OR RECYCLING OF WASTEWATER OPTION

Description: Wastewater from trade or manufacturing processes must be collected onsite and not released to sewer or stormwater systems, except for wastewater from an approved washbasin.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Obtain current trade waste approval for washbasin discharge only.
- ✓ Ensure onsite wastewater complies with the Environmentally Relevant Activity (ERA) license conditions.
- ✓ Apply for an ERA license if conducting washing activities where wastewater is contained and not connected to sewer.
- ✓ Store regulated waste in accordance with licensing requirements and approved premises use.
- ✓ No wastewater should be discharged to sewer or stormwater, except for hand washing, staff amenities, and toilets.
- ✓ Holding Tank Considerations: The holding tank capacity must be sufficient for business needs and managed to prevent overflows.
- ✓ Consult with the Environmental Health Branch about ERA licensing and compliance.

DISCHARGE LIQUID WASTEWATER TO SEWER OPTION

Description: The work area is connected to sewer but not to stormwater systems. Pre-treatment devices are required to reduce silt, oil, grease, and hydrocarbons entering the sewer.

REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Obtain trade waste approval for discharging all liquid waste to sewer with proper pre-treatment.
- ✓ Install a trade waste sub water meter(s).
- ✓ Ensure effluent from pre-treatment devices only drains to sewer.
- ✓ Discharge stormwater to stormwater systems and pre-treat wastewater before sewer discharge.
- ✓ Install a compliant wash bay facility.
- ✓ Service pre-treatment devices regularly as per manufacturer's recommendations.
- ✓ Use pressure cleaners and quick break detergents for cleaning.
- ✓ Wipe up spills, use trays under leaking parts, and wash floors within the wet area with a pressure spray.
- ✓ Do not drain neat fuels or oils to a pit; capture and store coolants, brake fluid, motor oil, and fuels separately.
- ✓ Store batteries in a bunded area; manage spills in a blind sump and recycle batteries promptly.
- ✓ Wash small parts in a solvent-based recycling parts washer; arrange off-site removal of chemical bath liquids.
- ✓ Wash soiled hands only at an approved hand washbasin discharging to sewer.
- ✓ Clearly sign the washbasin designated for hand washing.

LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

1. **Obtain Trade Waste Approval**
All mechanical businesses must secure trade waste approval.
2. **Regular Audits**
Businesses are subject to regular audits by Trade Waste Officers. These officers ensure compliance with the *Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008*, Trade Waste Policy, and Trade Waste Management Plan.
3. **Compliance Upgrades**
Non-compliant businesses must upgrade their facilities to meet minimum standards.

FURTHER INFORMATION

If you have any questions about trade waste, wastewater, or anything related to this fact sheet, please contact Council's Trade Waste Officer via 1300 MY SDRC (1300 697 372) or via sdrcradewaste@sdrc.qld.gov.au.