

Trade Waste Management Plan for Industrial Customers

The Trade Waste Management Plan for Industrial Customers explains the application of Sydney Water's *Trade Waste Policy* and relevant conditions for industrial customers. It is recommended that you read this document in conjunction with the *Trade Waste Policy*.

Customers cannot discharge trade wastewater to any of Sydney Water's sewerage systems without written permission from Sydney Water.

Accepting trade wastewater to the sewer presents Sydney Water with operational, environmental and safety risks. Sydney Water has developed a risk assessment process that is applied to all industrial customers to determine the degree of risk in accepting trade wastewater to the sewer. Each request to discharge trade wastewater to the sewer is assessed to determine that the wastewater can be safely accepted, transported and treated by the respective sewerage system. If the wastewater is NOT acceptable for discharge to Sydney Water's sewerage system, the customer will be notified in writing.

RISK INDEX

For trade wastewater that is acceptable for discharge to Sydney Water's sewerage system, the customer's application is reviewed and assigned a risk index. The risk index considers the:

- maximum volume of trade wastewater discharged by the customer
- capacity of the receiving transportation system and sewage treatment plant
- substances discharged
- customer's compliance history
- activity factor for the highest risk process being conducted on-site.

The process for determining the risk index is described in the fact sheet *Risk index and risk factor formula* at sydneywater.com.au.

The risk index determines the duration of the consent and frequency of ongoing monitoring by inspection, sampling and analysis. It also determines the annual agreement fees that apply to the customer. These fees are identified in the fact sheet *Trade wastewater fees and charges for industrial customers* at sydneywater.com.au.

Risk index	Agreement duration (years)	Routine inspection per annum	Sample frequency days	Composite samples per annum	Min. samples 1 st 4 months of conditional consent
1	1	52	1	365	120
2	1	52	2	182	60
3	1	26	4	90	30
4	2	13	8	45	15
5	2	5	22	16	8
6	4	4	60	6	8
7	4	2	90	4	8

Consent to discharge industrial trade wastewater

Conditional consent

When Sydney Water approves an industrial trade waste application, the customer is granted a conditional consent that may be valid for up to twelve months from the date the consent commenced. The conditional consent details the sampling program the customer must complete and outlines the customer's obligation to ensure the effective management of the trade wastewater discharge.

The conditional consent period allows both the customer and Sydney Water to gather the required information to negotiate a full consent. The sampling and inspection requirement for a new discharger will be determined according to the assessed risk. See the above table for the minimum number of samples to be collected in the first 4 months.

Full consent to discharge industrial trade wastewater

Before the conditional consent term ends, Sydney Water and the customer will negotiate a full consent. A customer with a conditional consent is not guaranteed a full consent. Sydney Water will not issue a full consent if it is determined that the customer's discharge poses an unacceptable risk to Sydney Water.

If a customer is required to undergo a site or effluent improvement program, a full consent will only be granted for the term of the effluent improvement program and for no longer than the maximum period specified for the risk index.

Managing discharges to sewer

Generally, a customer's self-monitoring of trade wastewater discharged under an industrial consent, will be based on discrete and composite samples collected on specified production days.

Discrete samples are an instantaneous grab sample of trade wastewater. Composite samples are trade wastewater samples collected flow proportionally or time based over a 24-hour period or over a production day.

If the composite sample result exceeds the acceptance standard, a breach has occurred and additional charges will be levied. The sample results will also contribute to the customer's performance history, which is incorporated into the risk index calculation.

Sydney Water may collect composite or discrete samples for monitoring purposes on any day, or collect a duplicate sample held by the customer for this purpose as specified in the industrial consent. This sample may also be used for breaching and charging purposes and will contribute towards the risk index calculation.

Consents for substances with safety implications may include a program for collecting and analysing discrete samples. Safety substances include but are not limited to ammonia, benzene, bromine, cyanide, formaldehyde, petroleum hydrocarbons, volatile halocarbons and sulphide. For a full list of safety substances, refer to the *Acceptance standards and charging rates* fact sheet available at sydneywater.com.au.

Breaches of consent or conditional consent

A breach of the consent or conditional consent is deemed to occur if Sydney Water finds the customer has broken any of the terms or conditions in the consent or conditional consent, or any of the quality, quantity or mass requirements relating to the discharge of trade waste.

Breaches can be classified as significant or notable.

Significant breaches present a safety risk to Sydney Water workers or affect Sydney Water's ability to transport or treat wastewater. When significant breaches occur, Sydney Water will issue a written breach notice to the customer. Failure by the customer to adequately respond to the conditions identified in a breach notice may result in the suspension of the consent to discharge trade wastewater. The response must identify the cause(s) of the breach and the action(s) taken to prevent a recurrence.

Notable breaches are less serious than significant breaches and do not present an immediate risk to Sydney Water workers, operating licence or ability to transport, treat or reuse wastewater or biosolids. Notable breaches do not usually result in written notification, but are recorded and discussed at regular meetings with the customer.

Significant breaches may result in a variation to the trade waste consent.

Sydney Water may issue a breach notice on-the-spot during an inspection, or as a default notice.

Examples of **significant breaches** include, but are not limited to:

- exceeding an acceptance standard of a safety substance in either a composite or discrete sampling
- exceeding an acceptance standard for any substance, three or more times in less than six months, either in composite or discrete sampling
- failing to achieve an effluent improvement program milestone
- failing to install pre-treatment
- wastewater bypassing pre-treatment
- wastewater bypassing discharge meter
- installing equipment to bypass pre-treatment
- installing equipment to bypass discharge meter
- exceeding maximum instantaneous flow rate
- exceeding maximum daily flow
- exceeding maximum daily mass
- exceeding maximum temperature
- pH significantly outside acceptable range
- failing to comply with the agreed operating procedure for the radiation delay tank system
- exceeding 5 per cent lower explosive limit (LEL)
- discharging any substance not included in the consent
- unsafe or no access to discharge meter, pre-treatment or sampling point
- faulty or inoperative discharge meter
- excessive gross solids
- excessive fibrous material
- the presence of discrete oil, fat or grease
- a lack of bunding or storage, or compromised bunding or storage, where there is an immediate risk to the sewer
- non approved use of hexavalent chromium (Cr^{6+}) in cooling towers
- incorrectly installed pre-treatment, vents, lids and associated equipment
- failing to comply with rainwater controls
- failing to provide the minimum number of sample results
- failing to maintain or calibrate equipment used for monitoring

- failing to sample in accordance with the specified sampling program.

Sydney Water may record **notable breaches** for any of the following reasons:

- minor exceedance of temperature*
- discharge meter is not calibrated at 12 month intervals or as directed by Sydney Water
- bunding or storage is not adequate
- minor or one-off exceedance of a non safety acceptance standard
- exceeding maximum instantaneous flow rate
- inadequately operated or maintained pre-treatment equipment
- rainwater controls not maintained or calibrated

Three **notable breaches** within six months may initiate a variation to the trade waste consent.

* In systems or sub-systems that have been declared as corrosion impacted, any pH or temperature breach will be considered as a **significant breach**.

Safety substances

Discharging at a concentration that exceeds the acceptance standard for a safety substance as measured by discrete or composite sampling will constitute a **significant breach**.

If a customer becomes aware that his/ her trade waste discharge may exceed any safety acceptance standard, the customer must immediately notify Sydney Water.

Sydney Water may direct the customer to cease discharging to the sewer, until the issue is fixed.

Concentration breaches

Any substance discharged at a concentration that exceeds the acceptance standards (measured by composite sampling) will attract mass charges at double the standard rate for that sample day. For minor breaches of concentration, a **notable breach** is recorded and the higher charge constitutes notice that the breach has occurred.

Concentration breaches and breaches of pH and temperature contribute to the risk index factors that Sydney Water uses to calculate the risk index. These risk index factors are the performance history factor (**P**) and the historical incident factor (**H**):

- **P** is based on the number of breaches of acceptance standards
- **H** is based on the severity of breaches of acceptance standards.

Sydney Water recalculates the risk index when a consent is renewed or varied. The quarterly fees are automatically adjusted for the ensuing consent term of one, two or four years. Sydney Water may initiate the recalculation of the risk index at any time. Customers can request a recalculation of the risk index once every 6 month or greater, if there is a valid reason to do so.

For more information, refer to the fact sheet *Risk index and risk factor formula* at sydneywater.com.au.

Default on sampling

Industrial customers are required to collect samples for analysis in accordance with their trade waste consents. Sydney Water calculates mass-based quality charges from the results of composite samples and their measured or estimated flow. Where customers fail to collect and

analyse samples in accordance with their consent, Sydney Water will use the highest composite concentrations recorded within the previous twelve months in lieu of the missing samples. Failure to provide samples also attracts a **significant breach** notice.

In circumstances where Sydney Water determines that the customer is in breach of the consent or conditional consent, the default notice procedure will apply. Complete details of default notice procedures are outlined in individual consent documents.

In all breach cases the customer must respond to the notification within 7 days and ensure that appropriate actions have been taken to rectify the problem to ensure that the breach does not recur.

If the problem persists or is likely to re-occur, Sydney Water will require the submission and completion of a suitable Effluent Improvement Program. (see section on Effluent Improvement Program)

Suspension of consents

Sydney Water may suspend a customer's consent to discharge trade wastewater if the wastewater poses a potential threat to Sydney Water staff and contractors, sewage treatment systems, processes, or the environment. The period of suspension will be for a period, in the opinion of Sydney Water that circumstance dictates.

If in the opinion of Sydney Water, there is an immediate safety risk to staff or the operation of the sewerage system, the officer may direct the customer to stop discharge to sewer effective immediately to ensure the risk is minimised. The notification may initially be verbal followed by written notice to the customer.

The customer must immediately comply and cease discharge to sewer. If the customer fails to comply, Sydney Water may stop the discharge to sewer through physical disconnection of the trade waste service for the property and/or restriction of the water supply.

Termination of consent to discharge

If the problem isn't resolved within a reasonable time, Sydney Water will cancel the consent and discharge to the sewer must cease. Failure to cease discharge to sewer may make the customer liable for prosecution under the *Sydney Water Act 1994*. Penalties for offences under other New South Wales legislation may also apply.

Prosecution

Under the Sydney Water Act 1994, a customer or any other person may be prosecuted for any breach of the terms or conditions in the consent, *Sydney Water Act 1994*, or any of the quality or quantity standards relating to the discharge of trade wastewater to a Sydney Water asset. Maximum penalties are outlined in the Sydney Water Act 1994. Penalties for offences under other New South Wales environmental legislation may also apply.

Determining discharge volume

The rates and volumes of trade wastewater discharged into Sydney Water's sewer under a consent or conditional consent are determined as follows:

- The customer must provide an approved flow measurement device, instrumentation including Amphenol plugs and display the instantaneous flow rate in litres per second as well as the totalised volume in kilolitres on a continuous basis. The pulses generated by the flowmeter should trigger the automatic collection of flow based composite samples. This is a requirement of all industrial consents.

- Where water is imported to the site or comes from sources other than Sydney Water's water supply system, eg bore water, rainwater or groundwater, the customer must provide an approved flow measurement device, including Amphenol plugs and instrumentation to display the instantaneous flow rate in litres per second and the totalised volume in kilolitres on a continuous basis.

In all cases the flowmeter must be installed after the final stage of the pre-treatment plant and before the point of connection of domestic waste streams.

A certificate of calibration for the installed flow measurement instrument must be obtained from a qualified professional service provider accredited by the manufacturer of the flow meter. The flowmeter must be calibrated in situ and the calibration certificate submitted to Sydney Water within two weeks of the calibration and at intervals of no more than 12 months.

For more information on discharge flowmeters, refer to the *Flow measurement guidelines* at sydneywater.com.au.

Determining discharge quality

The quality of trade wastewater discharged to the sewer under any consent will be determined from samples that have been taken at the agreed discharge point, upstream of the boundary trap before entering the sewer, and analysed in accordance with Sydney Water's published methods.

Industrial customers will be required to arrange the collection and analysis of samples of their own trade wastewater as specified in their consent or conditional consent. Where a discharge meter is installed, Amphenol plugs are required for flow proportional composite sampling using an automatic sampler. Sample frequency will be determined by the risk index. Sydney Water will also audit all aspects of the trade wastewater discharge under the terms of the consent, both by duplicate analysis and by independent automatic composite sampling.

Self monitoring of trade wastewater discharged under this management plan will generally be based on daily flow proportional composite samples collected on all production days. Sydney Water may collect a daily composite sample for monitoring purposes on any day, or collect a duplicate sample held by the customer for this purpose as specified in the industrial consent. These daily composite samples are used to determine trade waste quality charges, for breach or charging purposes or to calculate the risk index.

Customers who discharge trade wastewater containing substances that present a safety risk to Sydney Water may also be required to collect and analyse discrete samples on production days. Sydney Water may collect duplicate discrete samples for monitoring purposes at any time, on any day.

Sampling location

The agreed sampling point for the determination of discharge quality should be at a safe, acceptable location. Within practical limitations, the sampling point must include all trade waste streams generated on-site and exclude any domestic wastewater. Access to Amphenol-type plugs must be available no more than five (5) metres from the sampling point. If there is a diversion back to the pre-treatment, the sampling point and flowmeter must be after the diversion.

Online monitoring

Online monitoring is considered to be any type of continuous measurement of a substance in a customer's wastewater discharge. Where required by Sydney Water, the measured data must be downloadable to a secure website that can be accessed by Sydney Water. When the monitored substance reaches a level of concern, an alarm must be generated to inform Sydney Water and the customer that the discharge is non-compliant and may present a risk to Sydney Water.

Customers may be required to install and maintain online monitoring equipment when:

- they discharge trade wastewater containing substances that present a safety risk
- they have a poor compliance history
- the volume or type of wastewater discharged if non-compliant will present an immediate and significant risk to the environment, safety of workers, or the transport, treatment and/or reuse of wastewater
- they cannot demonstrate compliance with regard to flammable substances and are required to install a lower explosive limit (LEL) meter.

Online monitoring may be required at other times and customers may elect to implement online monitoring of their trade wastewater as an alternative to the standard prescribed composite and discrete sampling programs.

In all cases, the customer is responsible for the supply, maintenance and calibration of the instruments. Exceeding the measured substances will generate alarms and automatic operational changes to prevent further discharge of wastewater to Sydney Water's sewer. The customer may also be responsible for providing remote access to the data via a third party website. In these cases the customer may qualify for a reduction in trade waste agreement fees, provided that the customer installs the remote telemetry unit, provides Sydney Water with access to the data and monitors the substances required by Sydney Water.

Sydney Water may also monitor a customer's site using online monitoring instrumentation. The results may be used to issue a non-compliance notice or as the basis for a request for an improvement program.

For more information on online monitoring refer to the *Online monitoring* fact sheet at sydneywater.com.au.

Critical and over capacity substances

The capacity of Sydney Water's systems to accept and treat specific substances from trade wastewater discharges may already be or become limited due to increased development within the catchment, changed environmental regulations, health and safety requirements, reuse of the wastewater, or operational restrictions.

Sydney Water has developed a biosolids, effluent quality and sewer capacity model and runs this model annually to assess the impact of accepting trade wastewater at each sewerage system in accordance with the critical substance criteria outlined in Table 1. Where a substance needs to be restricted, the substance will be declared as critical or over capacity.

Where, as a consequence of accepting trade wastewater, a sewerage system or sub-system is determined to be affected, or likely to be affected, by significant corrosion, the system or sub-system will be declared as over capacity due to corrosion.

Trade wastewater customers discharging to these systems may be required to commit to and implement an effluent improvement program aimed at minimising the corrosion risk presented by their trade wastewater discharge. The basic discharge requirements for customers in these systems are as follows:

- Total BOD of 600 mg/L and soluble BOD of 100 mg/L or less
- Temperature of 25 °C or less
- pH stable between 7.0 and 10.0 for a minimum of 12 hours.

Depending on the severity of corrosion and the distance of the system or sub-system from the sewage treatment plant, alternative requirements may be imposed on customers discharging to these systems.

Sydney Water will declare the critical and over capacity substances for affected sewerage systems or sub-systems at any time. Customers affected by a change in status will be advised in writing. Any change in charging will apply 12 months after the sewer is declared corrosion impacted. Sydney Water will also determine when a substance ceases to be critical or over capacity.

The *Determination of critical substances* published by Sydney Water includes current declaration of corrosion for specific catchments and can be found at sydneywater.com.au

If pricing mechanisms for critical and overcapacity systems fail to reduce or contain the total mass of a critical or over capacity substance within a sewerage system, Sydney Water may apply load capping or suspend the consent.

Table 1 – **Critical substance criteria**

Status of Substance	Criteria used to determine status within a sewerage system	Charging rate multiplier	Mass subject to higher charging rate
Normal	Total invoiced mass or the sum of long-term average daily mass (LTADM) of the substance discharged by all industrial customers is less than or equal to 60% of the maximum allowable industrial loading (MAIL).	No multiplier	Not applicable
Critical	Total invoiced mass or the sum of LTADM of the substances discharged by all industrial customers exceeds 60% of MAIL but is less than or equal to MAIL.	2	Actual mass > 1.5 LTADM
Over capacity	Total invoiced mass or the sum of LTADM of the substances discharged by all industrial customers exceeds MAIL. OR Where a sewerage system, or sub-system, is determined to be corrosion-impacted, the system or sub-system will be regarded as over capacity with respect to Biochemical Oxygen Demand – 5 days (BOD ₅).	3	Actual mass > 1.5 LTADM

Determining trade waste charges

Customers are charged for the mass of substances discharged in their trade wastewater in accordance with the charging rates identified in the fact sheet *Trade wastewater fees and charges for industrial customers* at sydneywater.com.au.

With the exception of substances with a 'domestic equivalent', the chargeable trade waste mass is equal to the mass discharged. For substances with a 'domestic equivalent', Sydney Water will deduct the mass of substances up to the 'equivalent domestic mass' to determine the chargeable trade waste mass.

Chargeable trade waste mass = Trade waste mass (actual or assessed) - Equivalent domestic mass

Equivalent domestic mass = Volume (actual or assessed) x Equivalent domestic concentration

Charges for substances discharged at concentrations exceeding standards

For substances that exceed the acceptance standards, quality charges, including any critical mass charges, are doubled for that sample day.

Effluent improvement programs

An Effluent Improvement Program (EIP) outlines steps a customer will undertake to ensure its trade wastewater meets Sydney Water's published (or proposed) acceptance standards within an agreed timeframe.

An EIP is required when the trade wastewater does not meet the trade waste standards or mass limits in a trade waste consent. Sydney Water may require a customer via an EIP to make improvements to the quality of the trade wastewater discharge or to activities that occur on site that may affect trade waste quality.

An EIP is specifically required where:

$\frac{\text{Long term average daily mass (kg/day)}}{\text{Average daily discharge volume (ML/day)}} > \text{acceptance standard (mg/L)}$

OR

$\frac{\text{Measured average daily discharged mass (kg/day)}}{\text{Measured average daily discharged volume (ML/day)}} > \text{acceptance standard (mg/L)}$

OR

Measured average daily concentration (mg/L) > acceptance standard (mg/L)*

* Measured average daily concentration can be for either composite or discrete samples

OR

Where a transport system is declared 'over capacity' specific pollutants may be targeted for reduction

Effluent improvement programs must, at a minimum, include:

- a series of steps, each no longer than three months, that detail the proposed methods to improve the quality/quantity of the trade wastewater discharge
- any incremental improvements expected in the quality/quantity of the trade waste discharge
- the outcomes expected for timeframes and trade wastewater quality/quantity
- reporting milestones for each step

- a management plan outlining the nature (solid or liquid, containing chemical, food, or metal residues) and mass (tonnes per year) of waste substances expected to be produced as a consequence of the EIP and the method(s) proposed to reuse, recycle, or dispose of these substances
- a description of pre-treatment technology including sizing
- data on diurnal flow patterns and wastewater characteristics for the influent to the pre-treatment. This is required to assess the adequacy of the EIP.

Failure to provide a suitable EIP or complete an EIP or milestone by the due date will result in a significant breach. A consent will not be renewed if an EIP is outstanding or the EIP or a significant milestone has not been completed. A consent will only be issued for the duration of an EIP. In extreme cases, such as where intensive capital expenditure is required, a consent may be issued for the duration of the delivery of a milestone.

Where an EIP is required for a customer who discharges on average less than 5,000 litres a day, Sydney Water may not allow continued discharge to the sewer. In these cases, the customer will be required to complete an EIP within 60 days. The consent will be suspended if the customer cannot demonstrate compliance with the acceptance standards within this period. This particularly applies to safety substances, but may apply to any substance where an EIP is required.

Site improvement programs

Some customers may be required to complete a site improvement program. The aim of a site improvement program is to ensure conditions onsite do not present a threat to Sydney Water's sewerage system or prevent a customer complying with the conditions of their consent.

A site improvement program may refer to such things as bunding of chemical storage areas, open area issues and monitoring requirements.

Optimising trade wastewater discharge to sewer

Customers must ensure that process water reuse is optimised before discharge to the sewer. Direct discharge is not permitted for 'single pass' process water from cooling, heating and similar high volume, low contamination processes.

Customers must not use water (this includes Sydney Water's supply, bore water, groundwater, stormwater, rainwater or water from any non-process source) to dilute a trade waste stream before discharge to the sewer. Trade waste streams must be measured and sampled before mixing with domestic wastewater streams.

Water efficiency initiatives

Sydney Water customers must use water efficiently within the terms and conditions of the trade waste consent.

Managing water efficiently and effectively provides many benefits, such as;

- reducing water use and charges
- reducing hydraulic loading on pre-treatment systems
- reducing operating/maintenance costs
- protecting the environment
- improving the business' corporate image
- reducing the customers carbon footprint and related energy costs

Business are recommended to install **water efficient devices** and have a Water Management Plan (WMP) or adopt their Water Savings Actions Plan (WSAP) where required by the NSW Department

of Environment, Climate Change and Water. Refer to waterforlife.nsw.gov.au/waterefficiency/businesses/water_savings_actions_plans.

Both a WMP and WSAP should include a detailed water balance model of business operations. This will determine the most efficient and effective methods to use water without impacting on the quality of the trade wastewater discharged.

Sydney Water may be able to assist your business with the development of a WMP. Customers are encouraged to consult Sydney Water to discuss how to better manage water use.

Sewer mining systems

Sewer mining is the process of tapping directly into a sewer, either before or after a sewage treatment plant, to treat and reuse wastewater as recycled water.

Most sewer mining will involve extracting the wastewater directly from a Sydney Water sewer. The customer is required to measure the quality and quantity of wastewater extracted from the sewer and the quality and quantity of any returns to the sewer. Sydney Water will only charge for the additional load of substances discharged back to the sewer. No gross solids or grit are to be returned to the sewer.

The discharge from sewer mining schemes must meet all acceptance standards outlined in the fact sheet *Acceptance standards and charging rates*. This condition applies even when there has been no overall increase in the load of a substance to the sewer.

The acceptance standard for suspended solids for sewer mining schemes will be determined by the capacity of the receiving sewer directly downstream of the connection point. The scheme will also need to demonstrate that there is no significant detrimental impact on the influent to the sewage treatment plant at any time of the day. Customers must demonstrate that these conditions can be met before Sydney Water will issue a consent.

For more information on catchments suitable for sewer mining, refer to the fact sheet *Sewer Mining: How to establish a Sewer Mining Operation* at sydneywater.com.au.

Decentralised wastewater treatment systems extract domestic wastewater from a private connection onsite before treating and reusing it as recycled water. Customers operating these systems are required to apply for an industrial consent.

Discharge of contaminated surface and groundwater to the sewer

The ingress of surface water and groundwater to the sewerage system can cause severe operational difficulties for Sydney Water and increase the incidence of sewer overflows. Sydney Water's preferred option is that open areas and ground water are not discharged to the sewer.

Sydney Water recognises, however, that there are some circumstances where, under strict controls, it is environmentally beneficial to accept this waste to the sewer.

Where roofing an area is impractical and the contaminated run off cannot be directed to the site stormwater system, then the first 10 mm of rainfall collected via a 'first flush' system may be accepted to the sewer, however this must comply with the conditions of an industrial trade waste consent.

Groundwater and/ or surface water collected during excavation and construction is not accepted to the sewer and should be managed as part of site development. This should be treated and discharged to the site stormwater drainage system according to the requirements of the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW or the local council.

Contaminated groundwater from garbage tips known as leachate will be accepted to the sewer in dry weather only, however this must comply with the conditions of the industrial trade waste consent.

Groundwater will only be accepted to the sewer where contamination is from man-made activities and then only for a finite period while the site is undergoing remediation. Customers are required to install an approved rain gauge device and controls.

For more information refer to the fact sheet *Discharge of contaminated surface and groundwater to the sewer* available at sydneywater.com.au.

Bunding

Any substances used by customers that could adversely affect the sewerage system must be contained by bunds or other approved means of containment to prevent any leaks, spillage, and/or overflows from draining by gravity, or by any automated or mechanical means, directly to the sewer.

Bunded areas around chemical storage may contain blind sumps to collect spillage, but must not incorporate level-controlled pumps, gravity drains or any valves (including locked valves).

All trade wastewater pre-treatment systems must be bunded or protected by other approved means to contain any leaks, spillage, and/or overflows. Bunded areas, including those containing pre-treatment systems, must also be roofed to prevent rainwater collecting in the bunded area.

All bunds must be sized to contain at least 110% of the largest container located within the bunded area.

Sewer discharge of vehicle transported liquid waste

No person may discharge, or cause the discharge of, any waste, directly or indirectly, to any of Sydney Water's assets from any vacuum pump tanker or from any other liquid transport vehicle unless the:

- type of waste that is transported is covered by the conditions of a current trade waste consent issued by Sydney Water
- discharge takes place at a facility where the owners/operators hold a trade waste consent with Sydney Water
- discharge takes place at a depot licensed by the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW
- vehicle complies with any requirement of the Department of the Environment, Climate Change and Water NSW.

'Waste' includes, but is not limited to, waste from septic tanks (sludge and liquid), seepage pits, excavations, cesspools, grease traps, chemical toilets or any other such waste-holding device (including holding tanks on mobile cleaning vehicles), or any industrial or commercial waste.

Septic effluent (including septic effluent containing trade wastewater)

Sydney Water accepts discharge from septic effluent depots to the sewer provided the septic effluent depot is covered by the conditions of a current trade waste consent issued by Sydney Water. The discharge of untreated septic sludge to Sydney Water's sewers is not permitted. Septic effluent depots may receive septic sludge providing adequate treatment is provided to achieve compliance with agreed acceptance criteria.

Sewer discharge of bilge waste from ships

Due to the possibility of flammable materials being in bilge water, the discharge of bilge water will only be permitted through an industrial consent. Special safety requirements may be applied depending on the assessed risk.

Ballast water is not acceptable for discharge to sewer.

Sewer discharge from mobile plant and mobile waste processing

The discharge of trade wastewater from mobile plant and mobile waste processing systems may be accepted where the business is covered by the conditions of a current trade waste consent.

Single discharge event to the sewer

Single discharge events to the sewer are usually not permitted; however in some instances permission to discharge will be granted after an industrial consent has been entered into.

Use of additives in pre-treatment systems

The addition of solvents, enzymes, mutant or natural bacteria, odour control agents and pesticides to pre-treatment systems is not permitted except by specific authorisation from Sydney Water.

Public disclosure

To maintain community confidence in the quality of discharges from sewage treatment plants and the management of the wastewater source control program, the public may access portions of trade waste consents. Although a few commercially confidential details will be withheld, the company name and discharge address, risk index, plus Schedule 1 (trade wastewater which may be discharged), Schedule 2 (sampling, analysis, flow rates and volume determination) and Schedule 3 (payments) are subject to public disclosure. This information may be viewed at sydneywater.com.au

For more information

For more information visit www.sydneywater.com.au or phone 13 20 92.