

What is Liquid Trade Waste?

Liquid trade waste means all liquid waste produced from a business, commercial or industrial activity that is disposed to the sewerage system, other than sewage of a domestic nature.

Specific activities and business processes in our shire that have been identified as producing liquid trade waste are.

- Business/commercial premises (e.g. bakery, butcher, café, club, hotel, laundry, mechanic, motel, restaurant, mechanical workshops, car washes)
- Community/public premises (including swimming centres, craft club, school, hospital and nursing home);
- Industrial premises, and;
- Saleyards, racecourses, stables, and boarding kennels not associated with domestic households.

Some properties may have more than one liquid trade waste generating business process, such as a shopping mall. It is important that Council is aware of each process so its overall impact on the sewerage system can be assessed.

Why is this important to me?

Council has designed and built sewerage networks and treatment plants to treat the wastewater from residential premises. The wastewater from businesses can present issues for Council in transporting and treating these wastes. To ensure a consistent way of managing this waste, Council adopted a *Liquid Trade Waste Policy* in accordance with State Government legislation and the Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) - *NSW Liquid Trade Waste Management Guidelines, 2021*. Under the Policy businesses identified as discharging liquid trade waste must gain formal approval to discharge to Council's sewer. If you don't have an approval, you will be considered as a non-compliant customer. Non-compliance penalties and charges resulting from un-approved discharge or inappropriate pre-treatment can represent severe costs and/or restrictions on how the business can operate.

Do I need approval to discharge trade waste?

Yes, approval to discharge liquid trade waste to Council's sewer must be gained for each liquid trade waste generating process on a property. An application form must be completed and lodged with Council. There is an application fee for the lodgement of all applications, however if you are already listed as a liquid trade waste customer, you won't be charged the Application Fee as Council will use the data to update its records.

How do I gain approval?

A site inspection by a Council representative or contractor will determine if your business is discharging liquid trade waste and if pre-treatment is required and/or operating satisfactorily. Following the inspection, the discharger will be required to fill out an application form and provide Council with details of the operations, pre-treatment, proposed maintenance schedule and installation. Council may request other information in accordance with the trade waste classification being discharged.

The approval specifies the conditions under which trade waste can be discharged to Council's sewer system. Fees and charges are applicable and invoiced to the property owner. After approval is granted, Council will conduct random inspections to monitor compliance with the approval conditions and to ensure that proper pretreatment maintenance is being carried out.

Who is responsible for LTW charges?

All liquid trade waste charges are billed to the property owner (the ratepayer). If the property owner is not the business operator, the owner may pass on the liquid trade waste fees and charges to the business if provided for in an agreement such as a tenancy agreement or lease arrangement. The fees and charges will be levied until written notice has been received by Council from the property owner stating the business/activity identified is no longer in operation or is moving premises. Cleanout and/or disconnection of pre-treatment installations may be required before Council deems that liquid trade waste generating activities have ceased at the property.

What is pre-treatment and why do I need it?

Pre-treatment refers to any device or installation that treats the liquid waste before it enters the sewer. Basic pre-treatment includes sink screens and in-floor dry basket arrestors. More complex installations include grease arrestors, cooling pits, dilution pits and oil separators. Almost all liquid trade waste requires screening of some type before the liquid waste flows to sewer or onto more complex treatment, such as a grease arrestor or oil separator. Screening removes solids from the waste stream that may cause sewer and pipework blockages which can be costly to repair.

Council's sewerage systems are designed for transporting and treating domestic wastewaters. Untreated liquid trade waste can put much greater demands on Council's sewerage system than domestic sources, and can impact on the public, workers, the environment, and Council's sewerage system if not managed properly. For example, grease, oil, and solids can build up causing blockages and sewer overflows; strong wastes can cause corrosion of the sewerage system or produce offensive odours.

The two most common pretreatment items that Council will be requesting installation of are grease arrestors in commercial food premises and oil separators in automotive businesses. Both these devices intercept the wastewater in a pit or tank and work on residence time to allow the wastes to separate before the liquid component discharges to sewer. There will be an expense to the entity discharging liquid trade waste in installing these items, and it must be done by a licensed plumber, preferably with experience in these installations. Council will always allow a reasonable period of time for a customer to comply with these installations. Liquid trade waste pretreatment is not just a requirement within our Council. Our Policy is consistent with liquid trade waste practices across NSW and Australia.

What information do I need to attach to the application form?

For a rapid assessment of the application form, ensure all questions have been answered and the form is signed by the applicant and the property owner. Any additional information that

provides further details of the proposed/existing pre-treatment and operating activities will assist in the assessment of the application.

If you are required to install additional pre-treatment, you will be required to provide further information, including:

- A site plan showing the location of the proposed pretreatment and the connection point into the house service line
- Details of the type of pretreatment, its size and rated capacity.
- Maximum daily discharge to the sewer.
- Maximum daily discharge rate to the sewer.

Your plumber should assist with providing this information.

How do I work out the volume of liquid trade waste discharged daily to sewer?

The easiest way to determine the trade waste volume is by installing a 'check' water meter on the water pipework that is used to generate liquid trade wastewater.

If this is not feasible, then it may be determined in two ways:

1. Estimating the liquid trade waste generated within the business. This can be done by, for example, calculating the volume of a sink then multiplying this by the number of times each sink is emptied over a business day, then comparing this with the total water usage registered by the front water meter. For mechanical or vehicle wash down-type businesses the volume can be calculated by totalling the time it takes to wash down and multiplying by the flow rate of the hose/spray. The flow rate depends on the type of hose and how fast it is running. For example, a standard hose running strongly uses approximately 20 litres/minute.
2. Subtracting non-trade waste water usage from the total water consumption, then assuming that the remaining volume is liquid trade waste.

Council will also make an estimate of liquid trade waste usage so a Trade Waste Discharge Factor can be adopted for the property. This factor may be used for charging purposes.

Who can help with my LTW application and other LTW related questions?

Council staff are available to answer questions and provide information on the charges, requirements and application forms. Council also engages a consultant who specialises in liquid trade waste to assist Council in setting up their liquid trade waste management system. If you need to install pre-treatment you will need to engage a licensed plumber. They should be able to help you with providing plans and diagrams as they will need this to undertake work at your site.

An environmental/building consultant may be of assistance in regards to the available pre-treatment installations, technical drawings, screens, devices or completion of application forms.

Resources on the internet can provide further information on the general requirements.

- The Department of Planning and Environment (DPE) Water website provides all the details and a copy of the regulations
- Council's website provides Council's LTW Policy, this FAQ document as well as Application Forms

- The Sydney Water website provides information on pre-treatment equipment such as grease arrestors

What are the LTW fees and charges for my business?

The current sewerage and liquid trade waste fees and charges are provided on Council's website.

Council's liquid trade waste fees and charges will include:

- general fees and charges (application fee, annual liquid trade waste fee, inspection and/or re-inspection fees and renewal fee);
- category specific charges (trade waste usage charges for Charging Category 2 discharges, excess mass charges for Charging Category 3 discharges, charges for Charging Category 2S discharges and non-compliance charges); and/or
- other charges related to the nature of waste (e.g. charges for the discharge of stormwater from large areas).

The cost of being a compliant liquid trade waste discharger is determined by a number of factors. This includes the cost of upgrading existing pre-treatment to that required by Council's Liquid Trade Waste Policy, the volume (and strength for larger dischargers) of trade waste discharged to Council's sewer, and the type of business.

Non-compliance charges may be applied where a pre-treatment installation, for example a grease arrestor, is not properly maintained or cleaned out, and can attract an additional charge for that billing period. These non-compliance charges are designed to cover the additional costs to Council to accept and treat the waste. Please refer to Council's Website for current fees and charges.

How can I reduce my liquid trade waste bill?

The easiest way to reduce your bill is to be a compliant customer. This ensures that you only pay fees and charges based on Council having minimal intervention at your site.

Many of the charges are based on a percentage of incoming, known as the Trade Waste Discharge Factor. This is calculated as a percentage of liquid trade waste discharged compared to the consumption of water for the property. By reducing water used and discharged, the usage charges will decrease. Some tips to reduce the wastewater discharged to sewer includes, but is not limited to, minimising time spent washing down; dry sweeping floors instead of using the hose; using a trigger hose to control spray; rinsing dishes in a plugged sink rather than under running water; and installation of water saving appliances and running dishwashers only when there is a full load.