

GPG 4 Wastewater Discharge



Governing Legislation and Standards:

Environment Protection Act
State Environment Protection Policy (The Waters of Victoria)



Summary Information:

Waste water is any water contaminated as a result of your business processes, including stormwater that might become contaminated when running off your property. All water contaminated as a result of work processes or cleaning activities must be processed and controlled.

No wastewater from your site must not be discharged into stormwater drains.

Visible entrances to the stormwater system include; side entry pits, kerbs, gutters, and stormwater drainpipes. Stormwater pits are normally square or rectangular in shape and are covered by a grill.

The stormwater system leads directly into waterways and eventually into the sea.

The best way to do this is to send wastewater to a silt trap and then into a oil/water interceptor, plate separator or a similar device, before it is allowed to enter the sewer.

Your local water authority must approve of the type, quantities and discharge of wastewater you intend to discharge to the sewer.



Further Help:

EPA Victoria, telephone 03 9695 2777

Your local water authority:

- South East Water, telephone 13 28 12, www.southeastwater.com.au
- City West Water, telephone 13 26 42, www.citywestwater.com.au
- Yarra Valley Water, telephone 13 27 62, www.yvw.com.au

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Good Practice Risk Control:

- Use less water. Reduced consumption also results in reduced wastes and all related costs.
- Colour code or otherwise clearly identify your stormwater drains so that all staff know where they are.
- Do not hose down factory floors to clean them. Instead, use dry cleaning methods and spot clean all spills.
- Do not allow wastewater from any processing activity to drain into stormwater.
- Process all contaminated wastewater using a silt trap and a triple interceptor trap, plate separator, or a similar approved device, according to local requirements.
- Develop and implement a maintenance schedule to clean and maintain your traps, interceptors or separators at least every 3 to 6 months.
- Only discharge wastewater to the sewer if you have a Trade Waste Agreement or prior approval from your local water authority.
- If you do not have a Trade Waste Agreement, collect contaminated water and employ a disposal contractor with an EPA permit to pump out and dispose of the wastewater.
- If you consume a lot of water, consider installing on site water processing or recycling equipment. Although this is a big investment, it may save you money on the long run.
- Do not allow your business to pollute stormwater by any means, including the uncovered storage of any polluting materials such as used oil storage and old batteries.