



## Trade Wastewater Discharge

Under the *Environment Protection Act 1970* discharges to the environment must be managed so they do not adversely affect the receiving environment. In other words, the disposal of wastewater to stormwater without approval from the Environment Protection Authority is prohibited under the Act.

### What is Trade Wastewater?

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

**Trade wastewater from your site must never be discharged into stormwater drains!**

Stormwater drains are normally square or rectangular in shape and are covered by a grill. The stormwater system leads directly to natural waterways and eventually into the sea.

There are two ways to dispose of your businesses trade wastewater:

1. **Appoint an EPA contractor** to pick up and transport wastewater off site.
2. Obtain a **Trade Waste Agreement** with your local water authority.

### Wastewater Disposal Method 1# - Appoint an EPA Contractor

One way to dispose of your trade wastewater is to store it on site until it can be picked up and disposed of by an EPA contractor.

### Things to Remember

- Colour code or otherwise clearly identify your stormwater drains so that all staff know where they are.

## Environmental Guidelines



- Do not hose down workshop floors (this is not allowed in times of water restrictions). Instead, use dry cleaning methods and spot clean all spills.
- If you use EPA waste contractors to collect your wastewater, keep the receipts that they give you.
- Correctly fill out an EPA Waste Transport Certificate and keep this for at least 24 months.

### Wastewater Disposal Method 2# - Trade Waste Agreement

Local water authorities are empowered to manage local trade waste by the following legislation; *Water Industry Act 1994* and *Water Industry Regulations 2006*.

Therefore, the second way to dispose of trade wastewater is by obtaining a **Trade Waste Agreement** from your local water authority. A Trade Waste Agreement allows you to dispose of trade waste through a triple interceptor which is then directed to the sewer and treated. This is required by law and is necessary in order to effectively manage the risks associated with trade waste.

Sewer openings are usually round and the lids are generally more difficult to remove than stormwater grates. Please note that all trade waste customers require a Trade Waste Agreement or consent before any discharge commences.

There are strict guidelines on the quantity and quality of trade wastewater discharge going to sewer. These guidelines are designed to protect the sewerage system and the environment. Trade waste charges vary depending on the water authority but are generally related to the quantity and quality of trade waste.

### Things to Remember

- Only discharge wastewater to the sewer (via a triple interceptor) if you have a Trade Waste Agreement or prior approval from your local water authority.
- Only discharge trade wastewater into the sewer according to the terms and conditions of your Trade Waste Agreement.
- Develop and implement a maintenance schedule to clean and maintain your traps, interceptors or separators regularly.
- Have properly documented procedures and records demonstrating that delegated people are trained to operate and maintain your water treatment equipment.
- If your business consumes a lot of water, consider installing on site water processing or recycling equipment. Although this is a big investment, it may save you money in the long run.
- Ensure that the triple interceptor sludge is treated as prescribed industrial waste (pumped off site by an EPA contractor).

## Environmental Guidelines



### Further Information



Environment Protection Authority Victoria

Phone: (03) 9695 2722

[www.epa.vic.gov.au](http://www.epa.vic.gov.au)

Water Authorities (Victoria Online)

<http://www.vic.gov.au/business-industry/utilities-energy/water-authorities.html>

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**Note: This Good Practice Guideline is not a complete statement of law relevant to this topic.  
Further legal advice must be sought if complete information is required.**