

TRADE WASTE: FAQs & Charges

Trade waste is the liquid waste from any industry, business, trade or manufacturing premises which enters the sewer system. Trade waste originates from a wide variety of businesses - from commercial kitchens, laundromats, mechanics through to abattoirs and factories. Typically it requires pre-treatment before entering the sewer to make sure it does not damage our pipes, harm our staff or impact on our treatment processes.

Why worry about trade waste?

Trade waste can contain pollutants that are harmful to the sewer system, staff and the environment. It must be managed responsibly.

Where does trade waste go?

Having left your premises, trade waste is carried in the sewer system to the nearest recycled water plant. Incoming wastewater is treated to remove any contaminants and pathogens so that it can be reused for purposes approved by the Environmental Protection Authority such as irrigation.



What approvals are needed for trade waste discharge?

You must obtain permission from WesternWater before discharging any trade waste to the sewer system. Trade Waste Agreements or Consents have been developed for this reason. Discharging trade waste without permission is illegal and can attract penalties.

Your agreement or consent will depend on the type and amount of trade waste your business produces which may include pre-treatment and regular maintenance of your pre-treatment device (e.g. grease trap). More complex discharges require more sophisticated systems.

Regular inspection and sampling by Western Water may also be required and your trade waste contract will set out both your and Western Water's responsibilities in detail.

How are trade waste costs calculated?

There may be up to 3 components to your trade waste charge:

1. An application fee for new customers
2. A management fee to cover site inspections, monitoring, administration and review of Trade Waste Agreements
3. A volume and quality charge, based upon the risk rating to cover collecting, transporting, treating and disposing of trade waste as well as managing environmental impacts.

Our user pays cost recovery system is based on the volume and quality of the trade waste (ie the organic content and concentration of suspended solids) as well as Western Water's costs to render your trade waste suitable for recycling.

What are trade waste customer categories?

Category A represents the majority of Western Water's trade waste customers and businesses typically include takeaways, bakeries and fast food stores. They discharge less than 1,000 litres/day of trade waste and are considered low risk. They are not charged for the volume or quality of their trade waste.

Category B customers discharge between 1,000-10,000 litres of trade waste daily with less than 400mg/litre of organic content (solids). They are considered risk 2 because of the amount discharged and receive a volumetric charge. Typical category B customers include swimming pools, hospitals and car washes.

Category C customers also discharge between 1,000-10,000 litres of trade waste daily but with more than 400mg/litre of organic content (solids). They receive both a volumetric and a quality charge. Typical category C customers include aged care facilities and large restaurants.

Trade waste charges by customer category - 2010/11

Quantity (litres/day)	Risk rating	Category	Application Fee	Management Fee
< 1,000	1	A	\$122.84	\$238.66
1,000 - 10,000	2	B	\$193.08	\$500.62
1,000 - 10,000	2	C	\$193.08	\$500.62

For further information, call Western Water on 1300 650 425 or visit our website: www.westernwater.com.au



Trade Waste FAQs & Charges cont.

Calculating trade waste volume charges

In properties where trade waste discharges are not metered, a trade waste estimate is calculated based on drinking water consumption over a rolling 3 year average. In most instances the calculation factor is 0.6 (ie for every 1,000 litres water consumed, trade waste discharge is estimated at 600 litres). This is adjusted depending on site specific use.

If you wish to review the discharge factor, you will need to install a flow meter to measure the actual trade waste discharge or provide a satisfactory alternative evidence of volume.

Trade waste volumetric charges - 2010/11

Category	Charge per kilolitre
Category B (low strength waste)*	\$1.3343
Category C (high strength waste)*	\$0.9283

* Maximum charges, as approved by the Essential Services Commission, are \$1.4294 per kilolitre (Category B) and \$1.0092 per kilolitre (Category C).



Reducing trade waste charges

Western Water encourages all trade waste customers to move toward cleaner production. In other words, using less water and producing less waste will benefit both your business and Western Water.

You can reduce or remove most pollutants where they are generated in your waste stream by reducing or removing waste producing processes and by products. Install waste reduction equipment such as grease traps and never put oil down the sink.

Western Water staff will be pleased to assist you with practical suggestions for your business and some industry specific fact sheets have been developed for your reference.

Calculating trade waste quality charges

Trade waste quality is typically determined using industry averages for similar businesses. Western Water has built a typical quality database for various industry types based on random samples and information obtained from other water authorities. This data will continue to be refined as more information comes to hand.

In some cases, quality testing may be undertaken at your business. A revision of your quality charge is possible if you can provide satisfactory evidence that differs from Western Water's information.

Trade waste quality charges - 2010/11

Parameter		Charge per kilolitre
Biological Oxygen Demand	> 400mg/L	\$0.3013
Suspended Solids	> 400mg/L	\$0.1922
Total Phosphorous	>30mg/L	\$0.4486
Total Combined Nitrogen	>60mg/L	\$0.5770
Total Oxidisable Sulphur	>100mg/L	\$0.8334
Sodium	>250mg/L	\$0.1279
Arsenic	>0.2mg/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Cadmium	>0.4mg/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Chromium (III & VI)	>100g/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Copper	>100g/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Lead	>100g/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Mercury	>0.2g/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Nickel	>10g/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Selenium	>10g/L	\$0.1922
Heavy Metals - Zinc	>100g/L	\$0.1922



Common Water Saving Devices

Taps	Use sonic, flow controlled or quarter turn taps.
Valves	Install single control mixing valves which deliver both hot and cold water.
Grease Trap	Reduce temperature to increase its efficiency.
Shower	Install water saving showerheads.
Urinals	Install waterless urinals.
Toilets	Install dual flush toilets.