

Trade Waste: Motor Service Industry

Trade waste is any liquid waste, other than domestic sewage, that is generated by industrial and commercial business activities and discharged to the sewerage system

Motor vehicle businesses can produce trade waste containing harmful liquids such as petrol, solvents (hydrocarbons), flammable substances, heavy metals (from engine parts and batteries), degreasing agents, detergents, phenols, engine grit and paint.

These chemicals can damage the sewer system and affect the health of our staff. They can also reduce our ability to recycle wastewater and cause damage to the environment.

Discharging chemicals deemed harmful to the sewer system is illegal. Typically, trade waste requires pre-treatment before it enters the sewer.

Do I need a trade waste agreement?

Examples of activities that produce trade waste include vehicle washing, engine and parts degreasing.

You must have a Trade Waste Agreement or Consent from Western Water before you discharge trade waste into our sewer system.

Do I need to use these chemicals?

It is always better to reduce the chemicals at the source rather than dealing with them when they are mixed with wastewater.

If you are establishing a new business, talk to Western Water early to discuss the use of chemicals.

If you are an existing business, Western Water may be able to help you minimise chemical use.

Tips to save you money and reduce your trade waste

You can reduce or remove most pollutants where they are generated by installing devices and taking on practices that pre-treat your waste before it enters the sewer.

Vehicle maintenance

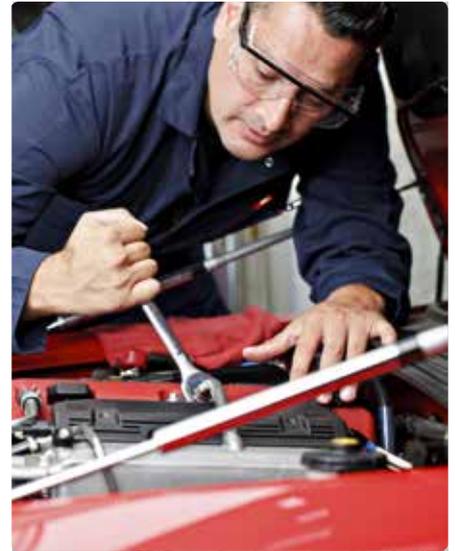
- wipe up spills immediately
- do not drain fuel or oil to the sewer
- capture and store brake fluid, motor oil and fuel for removal off site by an EPA licensed company
- store batteries in an area where waste and spills cannot drain into the sewer system
- do not wash rags in the sink
- install bunds to prevent wastes escaping to the sewer
- used oil filters can be collected by an EPA licensed company

Parts and engine washing

- wash small parts in a solvent based recycling parts washer which can recycle the recovered solvent which can be collected and taken offsite by a licensed contractor
- use a pressure cleaner to wash larger engine parts and engines and discharge via your oil water separator

Reduce your water consumption

- never leave taps running
- install pressure cleaners
- sweep and mop rather than hose down



PRE-TREATMENT DEVICES?

If your trade waste enters the sewer, you must install equipment to remove harmful substances from the wastewater before it enters the sewer system.

If you use a floor drain or wash bay, you will need to remove oil-based pollutants from wastewater using an oil water separation system.

Areas that should be treated by a silt trap or an oil water separator include degreasing bays, vehicle washing areas and workshop floors.

Any oil or other contaminants should be disposed of through an EPA accredited waste disposal company.