

Trade Waste: Food service industry

Waste like cooking oil, grease and food solids is produced in food outlets every day. If that waste goes straight into the sewer system, it can cause blockages and spills and pollute our waterways.

Do I need a trade waste agreement?

All businesses that prepare food must have a Trade Waste Agreement or Consent from Western Water before putting trade waste into the sewer system.

Businesses needing trade waste agreements include:

- bakeries
- cafes, restaurants and function centres
- caterers
- takeaway food stores
- delicatessens where hot food is prepared
- butchers and fresh fish retailers
- ice cream parlours
- shopping centres
- smallgoods and wholesale food businesses
- kitchens in clubs, hospitals, hotels, motels, nursing homes, schools and other commercial operations.

Your trade waste agreement will establish what you can put into the sewer system, as well as what pre-treatment devices are required before you do so.

Simple ideas for reducing greasy waste

- Dry wipe plates and utensils to remove grease before washing
- Use less cooking oil where practical
- Pour used oil into containers or drums for recycling (never down the sink)
- Sweep floors before washing or hosing down
- Mop floors instead of hosing down whenever practical.

Tips for reducing water consumption

- Never leave taps running in the kitchen
- Rinse fruit and vegetables in still water, not under running water
- Thaw frozen food in the refrigerator, not under running water
- Consider installing a sensor tap or a knee or foot valve for hands-free operation while preparing food
- Use dishwashers or glass washers only when they are fully loaded
- Scrape rather than rinse dishes before placing in the dishwasher.

DO YOU NEED A
TRADE WASTE
AGREEMENT?



REDUCING WASTE

Western Water can advise individual businesses on how to reduce their trade waste volume and charges.

This usually involves reducing water use, and/or reducing the volume of contaminants in your trade waste.

Reducing trade waste can benefit your business through decreased costs, as well as helping Western Water's sewage treatment plants.