



ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRIES – PUB 06C

Introduction

The Water Corporation's wastewater system is primarily designed to service households with normal domestic wastewater. We also make the wastewater system available for industrial wastes wherever it is safe and appropriate to do so. Not all industrial wastes are compatible with our system.

This brochure describes the acceptance criteria that we use for assessing industrial wastes and how different types of wastes may need to be treated before we can accept them into the wastewater system. Some types of waste cannot be accepted into the wastewater system.

What Do I Have To Do?

Apply to the Water Corporation for an Industrial Waste Permit. Application forms are available from our website.

We will assess your business and identify what you need to do to make your sewer discharge safe. We may require you to install a pre-treatment fixture such as an oil arrestor to partially treat your wastewater before it is discharged to sewer.

If we can accept the waste (after any required on-site pre-treatment) we will issue you with an Industrial Waste Permit. The permit will allow you to discharge the waste under specified conditions.

Why do we Need Acceptance Criteria?

Discharges to sewer which do not meet our acceptance criteria could have serious consequences for people's health, or the environment.

Unauthorised discharges could result in:

- A threat to the health and safety of workers within the wastewater system
- Damage to the urban wastewater system, or poisoning of the biological processes at our treatment plants
- A threat to public health directly from your discharge, or from any sewer failures which might be caused by your discharge
- An inability to reclaim and re-use our treated wastewater, or our Biosolids treatment by-products, in industry or agriculture; or
- A threat to the environment from any failure of the sewer system, or by contaminants which cannot be removed by our treatment processes.

By applying our acceptance criteria, and encouraging pre-treatment at source, we can maximise the availability of our wastewater system for industrial wastes, while keeping the environment and our community safe.

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13 13 95 Technical Enquiries
13 13 85 General Enquiries

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Acceptance Criteria for Automotive Services Activities

The acceptance criteria most likely to be of relevance to automotive services industries are listed below. These acceptance criteria are based on wastewater industry standards and Water Corporation investigations.

If you have activities other than automotive services within your business, or unusual issues in relation to your wastewater, then you may need more information. A complete listing of wastewater quality parameters and associated acceptance limits is available from our website or customer service centres.

Fats, Oils and Grease (FOG)

Water level sensors and pump switches can get fouled by oily residues, causing sewerage overflows when pumps fail to start. Immiscible fluids form a barrier on the water surface at our treatment plants, preventing the oxygen transfer across the surface which is critical for our biological treatment processes.

We generally control FOG wastes by requiring pre-treatment at the source. This usually requires an oil interceptor for automotive services workshops.

Oil Interceptors have only limited capacity, and as they fill with grease and oil sludge they reach a point where they are no longer effective. Consequently, we require that your oil interceptor is properly maintained, and the captured sludge is pumped out regularly.

A minimum frequency for your grease trap pump out will be determined when you apply for an Industrial Waste Permit. For existing customers, the minimum frequency previously set under the DEP's WasteTrack service (which ceased on 1 July 2003) will continue to apply.

Flammable Liquids

Flammable or volatile liquids can cause fires or explosions in sewerage systems, and are a danger to our workers. They cannot be accepted into the sewer system.

Runoff from service station forecourts is only permitted into the sewer under special conditions.

Suspended Solids (SS)

Suspended solids can cause silting within sewers and pumps stations, leading to blockages, failures and overflows. Suspended solids also result in excessive loading of grit at treatment plants, increasing costs and risk.

We generally require an appropriate form of pre-treatment to physically separate the solids from your wastewater before it goes to sewer. For most automotive services businesses, a sump on the drain in your workshop is sufficient to capture the majority of settleable solids.

Coolant and Radiator Fluid

Glycol has a particularly high organic strength (measured as biological oxygen demand), and represents a highly concentrated load for our biological treatment processes.

The discharge of coolant and radiator fluid to sewer is normally not permitted. Instead, these fluids should be handled and disposed of in the same manner as your waste oils.

Car Washes

Wastewater from car wash facilities can be discharged to sewer after suitable pre-treatment. This usually entails a silt sump and oil interceptor to remove any suspended solids or hydrocarbons contained in the wastewater.

We produce a specific information brochure for Car Washes ("Car Washes" – IW PUB32), which can be downloaded from our website.

Other Limitations

Other wastewater contaminants and physical characteristics subject to acceptance criteria. For example:

- Wastewater that is either highly acidic, or highly alkaline, is subject to controls

- Machining of brake discs, engine blocks or other components may generate rinse or wash water contaminated with metals. Strict environmental limits do apply, but discharges from most automotive workshops are usually below these limits
- Smash repairers, and general workshops, may generate wastewater contaminated with paints, putties, sealants and other chemicals. Limitations and restrictions may apply, but are unlikely to affect the majority of automotive repairers
- If you operate a restaurant as part of your site, then you should enquire about our information for food outlets
- Other limitations apply to stormwater or freshwater discharging to sewer, radioactive substances, genetically modified organisms, and infectious substances.

Please enquire if you think these criteria may apply to your situation.

More Information?

The current version of this information sheet is shown on the Water Corporation Internet site at http://www.watercorporation.com.au/l/industrialwaste_index.cfm. Further information on the issue detailed on this sheet can be obtained by phoning 13 13 95, or visit your nearest Water Corporation office.