

Food Waste Disposal Units Trade Waste Guideline No. 39

INTRODUCTION

Wastewater discharges from food waste disposal units have the potential to adversely affect the sewerage system. Wastewater high in suspended solids and grease may cause blockages and surcharging within the sewer.

This guideline applies to

- commercial installations with one or more food waste disposal units
- domestic installations where there are more than ten food waste disposal units within one complex and leading to one sewer connection.

A trade waste discharge Permit is required for each applicable installation. When plans are submitted for approval, we will assess the impact of these units and recommend appropriate pre-treatment measures to be taken, to achieve acceptable discharge quality.

Existing facilities with food disposal units (irrespective of installation date) will be required to comply with this Guideline where their discharges have adversely impacted the receiving sewer.

DEFINITIONS (for the purpose of this Guideline)

A **food waste disposal unit** (sometimes called a garbage grinder) is any apparatus that mechanically shreds or pulverises food waste for the purpose of aiding its passage through the drain pipe.

A **complex** is a group of single storey buildings with a common drainage system, or a multi-storey building, having numerous food preparation and cooking facilities (e.g. apartments, housing units, townhouses).

KEY TRADE WASTE QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

PARAMETER	GENERALLY ACCEPTED LEVEL
Suspended Solids	<500 mg/L average
Grease/Oil	<100 mg/L

Note: Discharge limits may be varied under certain circumstances for individual dischargers.

MINIMUM PRETREATMENT REQUIREMENTS

- All drainage from food disposal unit(s) is directed to a suitably sized pretreatment device of a type approved by SA Water.
- Approved pretreatment device(s) are grease arrestor, or dissolved air flotation (DAF) for larger installations.
- DAF units must be housed in a suitably roofed and bunded area.

MAINTENANCE

Site managers or unit owners are responsible for ensuring the effective operation of all pretreatment equipment (e.g. regular removal of accumulated sludge, oil and grease). An appropriate maintenance program will be a condition of the trade waste discharge Permit.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS3500-2003 Part 1), [Trade Waste Grease Arrester Guideline No. 12](#), [Trade Waste Bunding Guideline No.4](#), [Trade Waste General Policy](#). [Standards of Acceptance of Liquid Waste to Sewer](#)

Reviewed January 2011

Further information
(08) 7424 1336

www.sawater.com.au
tradewastebranch@sawater.com.au