

# Trade Waste

Important information



Government  
of South Australia



**SA Water**

# What is trade waste and where does it go?

Under our cities and towns lies an enormous system of wastewater pipes. These pipes, which are commonly referred to as sewers, carry away wastewater from premises to a plant where it can be treated and disposed.

While wastewater includes domestic waste from our homes, it also includes waste from industries, businesses, trade and manufacturing processes, which is referred to as trade waste.

There are two types of trade waste - commercial trade waste and industrial trade waste. Commercial trade waste is generated from businesses such as restaurants, dry-cleaners and commercial laundries, vehicle washing services and photographic development businesses, to name a few. Industrial trade waste comes from businesses such as large manufacturers, eg, metal finishing, abattoirs, tanneries etc.

Domestic wastewater is generally 99.9% water, with the remaining 0.1% being dissolved or suspended material. Much of this water could be saved and reused, but it needs to be free from industrial pollutants and other contaminants. It is here you can help.

By following SA Water's trade waste discharge guidelines you can help reduce problems in the wastewater system which is vital to our health and standard of living, and enables us to reuse the wastewater and biosolids which our treatment processes produce.

## SA Water's role

SA Water administers the *Sewerage Act 1929* on behalf of the South Australian Government. This means we are responsible for the collection and treatment of wastewater, as well as the maintenance of the associated infrastructure. This Act empowers SA Water to determine and regulate the standard and quality of discharge into wastewater system for the protection of public health and the environment.

## What does this mean to you?

If your business generates trade waste, which is discharged into the wastewater system, you will need a discharge permit.

If you require more information on whether you need to apply for a Trade Waste Discharge Permit please contact SA Water, 250 Victoria Square, or by phoning (08) 7424 1336.

### **Trade Waste charges**

Industrial and large discharges may be liable for quality and quantity loading changes, information is available on the SA Water website ([www.sawater.com.au](http://www.sawater.com.au)).

## The permit process

Applying for a permit is a straight forward process.

It's simply a matter of completing an **Application to Discharge Trade Waste** form available directly from SA Water, 250 Victoria Square, or by phoning (08) 7424 1336 or at [www.sawater.com.au/sawater/yourbusiness/tradewaste](http://www.sawater.com.au/sawater/yourbusiness/tradewaste).

If you would like to check whether or not you already have a discharge permit for your business, please contact SA Water on the numbers overleaf. Once you have completed your application, please return it and any relevant documentation together with the application fee, to SA Water, Trade Waste, GPO Box 1751, Adelaide 5001.

Providing your request complies with SA Water's trade waste guidelines, a **Trade Waste Discharge Permit** will be issued.

Within 12 months of being granted the Trade Waste Permit, an SA Water officer will meet with you at your business site. This meeting, or audit as it is known, is to verify that your business trade waste activities comply with the conditions on the Permit.

A **Trade Waste Discharge Permit** will then be extended if your trade waste activities meet the agreed Permit conditions.

SA Water officers will conduct regular compliance audits to assess the trade waste management in accordance with your permit conditions. These are generally scheduled annually for most businesses, but more often where higher risk activities occur. A fee applies for each audit. Refer to our fees and charges for details.

If you have trouble understanding or speaking English, please phone the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450.

## Inquiries

Trade Waste

250 Victoria Square, Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone (08) 7424 1336

Facsimile (08) 7003 3366

Office hours - 8.30 am to 4.30 pm



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