

Laundering

Trade Waste Guideline No. 14

INTRODUCTION

Trade waste discharges from laundry and dry cleaning operations have the potential to adversely affect the sewerage system. Waste waters can contain grease/oils, suspended solids and coloured dyes and be high in both pH and temperature. Appropriate management practices at each site are therefore necessary.

DEFINITIONS

For the purpose of this guideline, 'laundering' refers to the processes used to clean clothing and linen. This guideline pertains to operations undertaking laundering with water or other solvents. These include commercial laundries, dry cleaners, Laundromats, and laundries in nursing homes, hospitals and hotels.

KEY TRADE WASTE QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

PARAMETER	GENERALLY ACCEPTED LEVEL
pH	Between 6-10 units
Suspended Solids	<500 mg/Litre average
Grease/Oil	<100 mg/Litre
Temperature	<38°C
Total Dissolved Solids	<1500mg/L
Flow rate to sewer	Dependant on capacity of receiving sewer

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

BEST PRACTICE MANAGEMENT ASPECTS

- Operators are encouraged to adopt water/ waste water reuse strategies.
- The amount of salt/brine used to regenerate water softeners is minimised.

TYPICAL PRETREATMENT

- **One or two domestic machines;**
 - Each machine is fitted with a lint trap.
- **Washing machines with pump discharge pipes greater than 50mm diameter;**
 - Discharge to cooling / flow balance channel(s) with minimum capacity 20% greater than the largest full cycle of the machine.
- **Laundromats and medium sized laundries;**
 - 225mm diameter silt trap fitted with stainless steel basket of 3mm mesh size OR a channel fitted with screens, the final one being 3mm mesh size, discharging to a 225mm diameter silt trap, as above.
 - A balancing tank may be required downstream of the trap, to regulate discharge flow rate and temperature.

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- **Laundries discharging in excess of 3,000 kilolitres of waste water to sewer per annum;**
 - Screening system comprising of a series of 10mm and 3mm screens or other approved method (e.g. bow screen or rotating drum screen).
 - Settling tank with volume equal to the maximum output of the laundry for 1 hour.
 - Depending on the waste water quality additional pre-treatment may be required.
- All tanks and containers storing process liquors, waste waters and chemical solutions are bunded in accordance with the [Trade Waste Bunding Guideline No. 4](#).

ADDITIONAL PRETREATMENT

- Automatic pH correction system
- Grease and oil separation equipment
- Buffer/ balance tanks to control the rate of discharge to sewer
- Heat exchange system to reduce temperature of discharges
- Polymer and coagulant addition to aid solids removal.

DRY CLEANING

- All solid and liquid waste generated by dry cleaning processes shall not be discharged to sewer. This includes:
 - Waste solvent (to be contained in an approved blind tank prior to removal off site in accordance with [Trade Waste Blind Tank Guideline No.3](#)).
 - Contaminated filter material and sludge.
 - Waste produced by the stripping and cleaning of dry cleaning machines or associated equipment.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS3500-2003 Part 1), [Trade Waste General Policy](#), [Standards of Acceptance of Liquid Waste to Sewer](#).

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