

## Medical and Dental Clinics

### Trade Waste Guideline No. 25

#### INTRODUCTION

Trade waste discharges from Medical and Dental Clinics have the potential to adversely affect the sewerage system. Appropriate management practices at each site are therefore necessary. For the purpose of this Guideline 'Medical/Dental Clinic' refers to sites providing medical treatment, surgery, X-Rays and therapy for people. There are four main areas of concern in regards to the disposal of waste Blood/ Tissue, Plaster/ Moulding Materials, X-Ray/ Radioactive Materials and Amalgam/ Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals.

#### KEY TRADE WASTE QUALITY REQUIREMENTS

PARAMETER	GENERALLY ACCEPTED LEVEL
Cytotoxic drugs	Not accepted
Pharmaceutical products and preparations	Not accepted
Suspended Solids	<500 mg/L average
Glutaraldehyde	<50mg/L
Ortho-phthalaldehyde	<200 mg/L
pH	Between 6-10 units
Temperature	<38°C
Flow rate to sewer	Dependant on capacity of receiving sewer

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

#### MINIMUM PRETREATMENT REQUIREMENTS

- Solid wastes resulting from surgery and other clinical activities shall be contained and disposed of by a licensed waste disposal contractor.
- Wastewaters from X-Ray or photographic processes shall be treated in accordance with [Trade Waste Photographic Guideline No. 1](#).
- Any chemicals (including radioactive wastewaters) shall be disposed of in accordance with [Trade Waste Disposal of Laboratory Chemicals Guideline No. 21](#).
- [Trade Waste Fact Sheet No.8](#) gives further information regarding Glutaraldehyde and Ortho-phthalaldehyde disposal to sewer.
- Where suspended solids concentration in wastewaters from floor washing can exceed [SA Water's Standards of Acceptance](#), or where plaster work or moulding is undertaken on site, a suitably sized and approved settling pit or plaster/solids trap shall be installed.
- Those wastewaters and chemical solutions not permitted to be discharged to the sewer shall be placed in approved containers and disposed of by a licensed liquid waste contractor in accordance with [Trade Waste Blind Tank Guideline No. 3](#).

#### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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Further information  
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