

Air compressor condensate water – discharge to sewer

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Water condensate is routinely drained from compressed air systems. Condensate water contains about 1 per cent compressor lubricating oil (also known as coolant) that is lost through the pressurised spaces within the compressor during normal operation. This means careful disposal is required.

Disposal options are:

- collection and off-site treatment by a licensed liquid waste contractor, or
- discharge to sewer, providing it meets acceptable quality limits and formal approval has been given in your *Trade Waste Discharge Authorisation*.

Spent or excess compressor oil/coolant of any type must never be discharged to sewer.

Traditional compressor oil/coolant

Traditional compressor lubricating oils can harm the sewage treatment process and environment. For discharge to our sewerage system, condensate water must be pre-treated to reduce the oil/coolant concentration to below **100 milligrams per litre**.

Simple gravity separation methods will not work when the oil is emulsified with water, so proprietary separation systems have been developed to pre-treat compressor condensate water. They use different technologies to suit a wide range of situations and can reliably achieve acceptable discharge quality.

Biodegradable compressor oil/coolant

An alternative that avoids the need for oil/water separation systems is to use a biodegradable compressor oil/coolant. Condensate water containing traces of products of this type **that we have approved** will be accepted to our sewerage system without prior pre-treatment providing best practice management minimises actual product loss to the condensate, namely:

- Compressor systems must be maintained to optimum working order, particularly component fits that are critical for keeping compressor oil/coolant out of the compressed airstream.
- Only the approved product is used in the compressor system. All other oils/coolants (including those with a mineral oil formulation) are not to be used.
- Condensates must be directed to sewer via a gully or tundish.

Approved products

We have approved the following products:

- SSR Ultracoolant
- Sullube
- CAPS coolant
- Kluber Summit Supra Coolant
- Kluber Summit DSL-32
- Kluber Summit DSL-68
- Kluber Summit DSL-100

Compressor condensates containing any other oil/coolant must be pre-treated using appropriate separation technology.