

Printing

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Trade waste discharges from printers could harm the sewerage system. Appropriate management practices at each site are needed. For the purpose of this guideline, 'printing' refers to the transfer of ink or similar pigment onto a surface such as paper, cardboard, cloth, metal or glass.

Key trade waste quality requirements

Parameter	Generally accepted level
Suspended Solids	≤500 mg/L
Total Dissolved Solids	≤1500 mg/L
pH	Between 6-10 units
Temperature	≤38 degrees C
Flow rate to sewer	Dependant on capacity of receiving sewer
Heavy Metals (e.g. Cd, Cu, Cr, Ni, Pb)	≤10 mg/L

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

Best practice management

- A register is maintained of all chemicals stored on site with their respective volumes.
- Incompatible reagents or waste products are segregated when stored.
- All worksite staff are familiar with Standard Operating Procedures for treatment of liquid wastes and spillages of all products and reactants.
- All chemical/solvent stores, process and waste tanks are bunded in accordance with the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).
- All processing sinks have a raised edge to prevent bench-top chemical spills from flowing to sewer.

Typical pre-treatment

- Only used waters complying with the [Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Standards](#) are discharged to sewer.
- Used waters containing suspended solids discharge via a 225mm silt trap fitted with a mesh basket or perforated bucket having a hole/mesh size of 2mm, including a fixed secondary strainer with a max 2mm hole size, or a channel

fitted with removable screen(s) having a hole size of 2mm to an appropriately sized settling tank or other approved device.

- Where the metals concentration of used waters exceeds the acceptance standards, an approved metal precipitation or metal removal system is installed prior to discharge to sewer. See the [Metal Finishing Guideline](#).
- Where used waters are coloured, appropriate pre-treatment systems are installed to reduce the colour of used water discharges to a level acceptable to the Trade Waste team.
- Used waters from photographic processing are treated in accordance with the [Photographic Processing Guideline](#).
- Where the pH of used waters is outside the range of pH 6-10, an approved pH adjusting system is incorporated. This may be in association with heavy metal precipitation or other treatment steps.
- Those used waters, solvents, inks, process liquors and sludge not permitted to be discharged to sewer are stored in approved containers and/or blind tanks for removal by a licensed liquid waste contractor in accordance with the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).

More information

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015)

[Backflow Prevention Requirements - Office of the Technical Regulator](#)

[Batch Treatment Guideline](#)