

## Laundering

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Trade waste discharges from laundry and dry cleaning operations could harm the sewerage system. These used waters can contain grease/oils, suspended solids and coloured dyes, and be high in pH and temperature. Appropriate management practices at each site are needed.

For the purpose of this guideline, 'laundering' refers to the processes used to clean clothing and linen. This guideline applies 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/L
Grease/oil	≤100 mg/L
Temperature	≤38 degrees C
Total dissolved solids	≤1500 mg/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

- Operators are encouraged to adopt water/used water reuse strategies.
- The amount of salt/brine used to regenerate water softeners is minimised.
- Reuse of final rinse water can reduce operating costs, but this could affect compliance with the permitted final TDS concentration limit.

### Typical pre-treatment

#### 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 2mm mesh size, including a fixed secondary strainer with a max 2mm hole size or
- A channel fitted with screens, the final one with 2mm mesh size, discharging to a 225mm diameter silt trap fitted with stainless steel basket of 2mm mesh size, including a fixed secondary strainer with a max 2mm hole size.
- A balancing tank may be required downstream of the trap, to regulate flow rate and temperature of the final discharge to sewer.

### Laundries discharging more than 3,000 kilolitres of wastewater to sewer per annum

- An approved screening system with final maximum 2mm mesh or hole size. Examples are:
  - a series of screens with progressively smaller mesh/holes, or
  - bow screen, or
  - rotating drum screen, or
  - vibrating screen.
- A settling tank (minimum size 1000L) with volume equal to the maximum output of the laundry for 1 hour.
- Depending on the wastewater quality additional pre-treatment may be required, such as:
  - automatic pH correction system
  - grease and oil separation equipment
  - buffer/ balance tanks to control the rate of discharge to sewer
  - heat exchange/recovery system to reduce temperature of discharges
  - polymer and coagulant addition to aid solids removal.
- All tanks and containers storing process liquors, wastewaters and chemical solutions are stored in accordance with the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).

## 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 in accordance with the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#) or other approved storage system before removal off site.
- Contaminated filter material and sludge.
- Waste produced by the stripping and cleaning of dry cleaning machines or associated equipment.

Blowdown from boilers is in accordance with the [Boilers Guideline](#).

## More information

Mains water protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015)

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

[Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Standards](#)