

Mobile operators

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Trade waste discharges from mobile operators could harm the sewerage system. Appropriate management of used water from mobile operations is needed.

For this guideline 'mobile operators' refers to dog washing, heritage building restorers, mobile radiator repairers, cleaning of buildings and roofs, carpet cleaning, paint brush and roller washing, on-site paint stripping/polishing, brick cutting etc.

Each mobile operator wishing to discharge to sewer is required to hold a Trade Waste Discharge Authorisation.

Key trade waste quality requirements

Parameter	Generally accepted level
Suspended solids	≤500 mg/L
Grease/oil	≤100 mg/L
pH	Between 6-10 units
Temperature	≤38°C
Metals (e.g. lead, zinc from paints)	≤10 mg/L
Flow rate to sewer	Dependant on capacity of receiving sewer

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

Used water management

Used water management at the various sites where mobile activities are carried out largely follows the [Batch Treatment Guideline](#). But where the quantity and nature of the discharges represents a low risk, we may relax our normal reporting and auditing requirements, providing that an acceptable used water batch treatment plan has been approved.

Used water may be collected and transported to another location (such as a site with a permanent pre-treatment facility) for treatment and discharge to sewer, or pre-treated and discharged on-site via a suitable sewer access point agreeable to the property owner and in a manner that is not hazardous to any person, or the sewerage system.

In any event, the authorisation holder is responsible for:

- Ensuring unauthorised material (including stormwater) does not enter the sewer as part of the on-site operation.

- Proper disposal of material that is not acceptable for discharge to sewer to a solids waste bin or other suitable means.

Where possible, work areas are dry cleaned/swept to remove large solids before wash down.

All used water is prevented from entering the stormwater/groundwater systems.

Pre-treatment

Where raw used water does not meet our [Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Standards](#), pre-treatment is required to improve the used water quality before disposal.

Pre-treatment can be:

- separation of solids by settling or filtration
- pH correction
- coagulation/ flocculation
- precipitation of metals
- separation of fats/oil/grease.

We may require sample collection and analysis at a laboratory with NATA or equivalent certification, to confirm pre-treatment effectiveness.

Routine audit inspections

As with all other discharge authorisation holders, routine audit inspections of mobile operators are conducted at a frequency dictated by the potential risk from discharges.

Scope of work

Used water arising from work outside the scope of the approved batch treatment plan must not be discharged to sewer, unless prior approval has been obtained from our Trade Waste team.

More information

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015)

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