

Seafood processing

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Trade waste discharges from companies processing seafood could harm the sewerage system. Used waters may contain high concentrations of total dissolved solids and suspended solids. Appropriate management practices at each site are needed. This guideline outlines the areas of concern and available technologies for the control of trade wastes.

Key trade waste quality requirements

Parameter	Generally accepted level
Biochemical Oxygen Demand	≤1000 mg/L
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 sewers

Note: Acceptance limits at country/regional wastewater treatment plants may vary from the figures given in this table.

Best practice management

- Processing areas and floors are dry cleaned/swept to remove solids before wash down.
- Intestines, heads, frame etc. are disposed to solid waste bin or alternative processing.
- Use of shade cloth lined baskets at the end of each processing table to remove fine solids.
- Coordinating discharge of seafood cooking and chiller tanks to avoid excessive temperature and flow fluctuations.
- It is the responsibility of site management to ensure the effective operation of all pre-treatment equipment (e.g. ongoing servicing/cleaning of silt traps and arrestors).

Typical pre-treatment requirements

- Screening of all used water from processing areas using silt traps/baskets and/or screens to exclude suspended solids (i.e. scales, fins, and heads).
- For smaller operations - suitably sized settling tank/grease arrestor.
- For larger operations - suitably sized clarifier or an advanced pre-treatment device e.g. [dissolved air flotation](#) system.
- Cooling of any cooking/retort water before discharge to sewer.

Additional pre-treatment

- Segregation of brine or seawater, for removal offsite by a licensed liquid waste contractor.
- Automatic pH correction.
- Buffer tanks for flow and temperature equalisation.
- Coagulant/flocculant addition to aid solids and blood separation.

More information

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015)

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

[Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Standards](#)