

Mortuaries

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Trade waste discharges from companies conducting mortuary operations contain contaminants which can exceed the [Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Standards](#).

Discharges can contain high levels of flesh, hair and solids. Discharge of significant quantities of formaldehyde and disinfectants can be hazardous to sewer maintenance workers.

For the purpose of this guideline, 'mortuaries' refers to installations undertaking the examination, preservation and preparation of human corpses. They include funeral parlours, morgues, mortuaries and autopsy facilities.

Key trade waste quality requirements

Parameter	Generally accepted level
pH	Between 6-10 units
Formaldehyde	≤50 mg/L
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.

Typical pre-treatment

- Autopsy tables have screens (with maximum 2mm hole/mesh size) fitted at the drainage outlet to collect hair and solids. Collected solids are disposed of via an approved medical waste bin.
- Wash waters and process liquors arising from embalming and washing of body trays are discharged via a 'slops trough' or an 'in floor flushing ring waste trap'. See *Figure 1*.
- Those used waters, process solutions and chemicals not permitted to discharge to sewer are banded or stored in approved cupboards, containers or tanks in accordance with [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).

More information

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015) Backflow Prevention

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

Figure 1: flushing floor waste and autopsy table

