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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Generally accepted level</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pH</td>
<td>Between 6-10 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Formaldehyde</td>
<td>$\leq 50$ mg/L</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Dissolved Solids</td>
<td>$\leq 1500$ mg/L</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flow rate to sewer</td>
<td>Dependant on capacity of receiving sewer</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Water supply from header tank in accordance with AS3500

50mm waste outlet with screen

40mm flush pipe

Approx 10mm

Floor grate (removable)

Approx 300mm

1140mm

Minimum 80mm trap

Direct to drain

Flushing ring

65°