

Paint manufacturing

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Trade waste discharges from companies manufacturing paint could harm the sewerage system. The used waters from paint manufacturing activities may contain suspended solids, heavy metals, stable emulsions, dyes, acids, alkalis and organic solvents. Appropriate management practices at each site are needed.

For the purpose of this guideline, 'paint manufacturing' refers to any process where coloured or clear water or organic solvent-based emulsions are produced for sale as paints, sealants or coatings.

Key trade waste quality requirements

Parameter	Generally accepted level
Suspended solids	≤500 mg/L
Biological oxygen demand	≤1500 mg/L
Total dissolved solids	≤1500 mg/L
Grease/oil	≤100 mg/L
pH	Between 6-10 units
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

- Waste minimisation measures and practices are incorporated to reduce used water loadings on the sewerage system.
- Dry clean/scrape containers and areas to remove coarse solids before wash down.

Typical pre-treatment

- Only treated wash waters from the paint manufacturing process are discharged to sewer.
- Used waters are pH adjusted (if required) and treated with an appropriate flocculating agent and detained in a settling tank of appropriate size or similar separation device, before discharge to sewer.
- Those liquid wastes (including organic solvents used in washing) or sludge not permitted to be discharged to the sewer are contained in an approved blind tank and disposed of by a licensed liquid waste contractor. See the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).
- All chemical/solvent stores, process and used water tanks are banded in accordance with the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).

Additional pre-treatment

- Sludge dewatering/ drying to reduce the volume requiring off-site disposal.

More information

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015)

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

[Batch Treatment Guideline](#)

[Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Standards](#)