

Swimming pools

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Trade waste discharges from commercial swimming pools could harm the sewerage system. Discharges contain contaminants, which can exceed the [Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Standards](#).

Discharges at significant flow rates can exceed the hydraulic capacity of the downstream sewer network.

Discharges of essentially clean water dilute the general sewage stream and reduce the efficiency with which contaminants are removed at the receiving sewerage treatment plant.

For the purposes of this guideline, 'swimming pool' refers to:

- all commercial and public swimming pools
- spas
- hydrotherapy pools
- ornamental fountains and ponds.

Key trade waste quality requirements

Parameter	Generally accepted level
pH	Between 6-10 units
Chlorine	≤5 mg/L
Temperature	≤38 degrees C
Total dissolved solids	≤2000 mg/L
Suspended solids	≤500 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 procedure

- **Small, regular discharges**, such as used waters arising from the backwashing/cleaning of filters and water treatment devices, and overflows due to rain are directed to sewer at **≤ 0.5 litres per second**.
- **Discharges greater than 20,000 litres** not specifically covered by a trade waste discharge authorisation must follow the [Non-domestic Hauled Waste Guidelines](#). Non-domestic [hauled waste charges](#) apply for these discharges.
- Appropriate pre-treatment facilities may be required to achieve compliance with discharge quality limits.

- An annual stormwater acceptance fee will apply to uncovered commercial pools. The current fee can be found on the [Trade Waste Fees and Charges](#) fact sheet.
- Used waters and chemicals that are unacceptable for discharge into the sewerage system are contained in an approved blind tank prior to disposal in accordance with the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).
- Containers of corrosion inhibitors, biocides, chlorine, acids and other chemical solutions are stored in a bunded compound, in accordance with the [Bunding and Blind Tank Guideline](#).

More information

Mains Water Protection (AS/NZS 3500.1:2015)

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