

# Changes to retail coffee shop pre-treatment requirements

Released: 1 December 2018

The trade waste pre-treatment requirements for coffee shops with no food preparation or cooking on site were evaluated to determine if a grease arrestor positively impacts the quality of the final effluent discharge. The evaluation entailed testing of the wastewater collected from the inlet and the outlet pipework of grease arrestors currently treating coffee shop wastewater discharges.

The findings of this assessment highlighted that a grease arrestor is not a suitable pre-treatment device for this type of activity, as it does not effectively remove contaminants from the coffee shop wastewater. The wastewater generated by retail coffee shops may be discharged directly to sewer through typical approved basic screening devices without increasing the risks to the SA Water's sewer networks and treatment processes.

## **Why a grease arrestor is not a suitable device for this type of activity?**

Retail coffee shops with no food preparation or cooking on site generate low wastewater volumes and consequently low contaminant loadings. These low volumes and loadings promote biological decomposition of settled solids under anaerobic conditions which is the principal source of unpleasant odours from grease arrestors. In addition, the presence of milk in wastewater under anaerobic conditions will adversely impact the performance of the grease arrestor. This was supported by extensive laboratory analysis.

## **What is the policy change?**

**From 1<sup>st</sup> December 2018, retail coffee shops with no cooking or food preparation on site are no longer required to install a grease arrestor.**

Prior to this date, coffee shops making a substantial number of coffees or having particular site processes were required to install a grease arrestor.

## **What businesses will benefit from this policy change?**

This trade waste policy change applies to **retail coffee shops** with no cooking on site, where there is minimal wash water generated from washing of contaminated utensils/equipment.

Food can be served to others, but not prepared on site. Examples: pre-packaged food, standard hot dogs with no extra cooked toppings, sandwiches/rolls, pies, cakes for take away sale or disposable containers for food consumed on premises.

Fixtures are limited to sandwich toaster, pie warmer, microwave oven, domestic-size sink and domestic under-bench dishwasher.

## **How will this change affect the existing coffee shops with grease arrestors?**

There are a few options available for coffee shops falling into this category:

### **1. Keep the grease arrestor**

- Continue to service the grease arrestor as per current arrangement, or as advised by your SA Water trade waste compliance officer.
- This option would be best suited for businesses where the current trade waste activity is likely to change in the near future. (E.g. the introduction of meals preparation and/or cooking on site, where an appropriately sized grease arrestor will be required.)

### **2. Bypass the grease arrestor** by running a pipe through the inlet and the outlet of arrestor, or by bypassing the arrestor completely.

- The grease arrestor is no longer required to be serviced.
- Please contact **SA Water Trade Waste and Networks** by phone (08)7424 1336 or by email: [tradewaste@sawater.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sawater.com.au) prior to commencing any works.
- This work must be performed by a licensed plumber. The plumber undertaking this work must contact the [Office of the Technical Regulator](#) on **1300 884 055** or [online](#), to book an inspection. The pipework support must comply with Section 10 of the AS/NZS 3500.2:2018.
- This option would be best suited for businesses where the current trade waste activity is unlikely to change in the near future. (E.g. the introduction of meals preparation and/or cooking on site, where an appropriately sized grease arrestor will be required). The grease arrestor may be reinstated for use again if required.

Please note: if you choose to bypass through the grease arrestor, the pre-treatment device may need remedial works to be reinstated.

### **3. Disconnect the grease arrestor from the sewer network**

- Please contact **SA Water Trade Waste and Networks** by phone (08)7424 1336 or by email: [tradewaste@sawater.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sawater.com.au) prior to commencing any disconnection works.

Your SA Water trade waste authorisation will still be required for all above options.

For further information please contact the Trade Waste and Networks team by phone (08)7424 1336 or by email: [tradewaste@sawater.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sawater.com.au)