

# Approval of basic pre-treatment products

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Most trade waste discharges from non-complex activities (such as retail food services and motor vehicle maintenance providers) can be effectively pre-treated by basic devices of the appropriate size and type. Unsuitable or ineffective products increase the risk to the sewerage system and can result in expensive remedial works for our customers.

Where basic pre-treatment is required as a condition of approval to discharge trade waste, we require the use of approved products.

In our experience, the use of biological additives is not an alternative to servicing grease arrestors (pumping out of accumulated contaminants), but may in some instances compliment their operation. However, their indiscriminate or improper use can produce wastewaters of unacceptable quality.

This guideline sets out the process by which manufacturers or vendors of this equipment can obtain approval for their product(s). It also covers the approval process for additives, which are sometimes used in association with basic pre-treatment devices.

This guideline does not apply to the more sophisticated pre-treatment systems as used in larger, industrial operations, which are often customised to meet the individual customer's needs.

Our guidelines for *Approved Basic Pre-treatment Products* and *Biological Additive Products* are both available on our [website](#), or by phoning our Trade Waste team on (08) 7424 1336.

## Definitions

**Basic pre-treatment device** is a flow-through device which traps contaminants by simple physical separation method(s), such as screening, settling or floatation. Examples are silt traps, grease arrestors, settling pits and coalescing plate separators.

**Additives** are organisms or products of organisms (such as enzymes, natural or mutant bacteria), or odour control compounds designed to be added to a basic pre-treatment device, to enhance its performance.

## Evaluation procedure

The applicant provides details of the basic pre-treatment product(s) to be evaluated, either by email to [tradewaste@sawater.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@sawater.com.au) or by post to

Trade Waste  
SA Water  
GPO Box 1702  
ADELAIDE SA 5001

The Basic Pre-Treatment Application form is available [online](#).

Ensure you make mention of any existing approvals or certifications and include any supporting documentation or data.

We may also require performance testing at one or more suitable customer sites to verify claimed performance if we believe that this has not been adequately demonstrated in

the application. This testing will form part of the evaluation process and will directly affect its outcome.

Sites for these trials, covering a range of customer activities for which the pre-treatment device or additive is suitable, are agreed between the applicant and SA Water. For additive trials, the selected pre-treatment devices must have a minimum capacity of 1000 litres, a history of routine maintenance and be operating within their design capacity.

We will negotiate the sampling/observation program with the applicant, based on individual site conditions.

We will carry out the sampling and analysis. Evaluation of the product effectiveness will be based on the laboratory results and observed performance. Sample results must support observational results and vice versa. Additional testing might be necessary to adequately validate product effectiveness.

For all applications, we will also apply our own evaluation criteria, which include:

- The product must not adversely impact our sewerage systems, treatment processes, our ability to meet our treatment end product specifications, or the health and safety of our workers.
- The level of initial customer support and ongoing technical support for the product must be adequate across our areas of operation.
- The use of an additive must not significantly increase the level of one or more contaminants in the trade waste discharge, while targeting another.

## Approval

We will discuss the evaluation findings with the applicant and give an opportunity for making any alterations, or providing further data, before reaching a decision. Applicants will receive formal notification in writing of our decision. We will advise whether the application is approved and whether any limitations or conditions apply, or if it has not been approved. Where the approval is limited or conditional, or has not been given, we will give our reasons.

Our approval is for the specific product that has been evaluated. It does not extend to similar products, or a product that has been altered in any significant way that might affect its performance.

Our approval for the use of a particular biological additive will be on the following conditions:

- Approval is limited to the specific product found to be successful. The additive concentration, dosing program and equipment must be exactly the same as was used in the successful trial.
- During the interim twelve month approval period, the biological additive supplier/agent will provide us with names and addresses of all new sites within seven days of customers agreeing to its use.
- We will advise each customer of a reasonable servicing interval for their pre-treatment device, based on experience gained during the trial. The suitability of the servicing interval will be assessed as part of our usual site audit function.
- We may randomly audit and sample the discharges from any number of customer sites using the product, to assess ongoing compliance.

- Providing all requirements have been met during the interim twelve month approval period, we will negotiate conditions for a full approval with the additive supplier/agent.

We review basic pre-treatment product approvals every five years to ensure that they continue to provide acceptable performance across the intended range of applications. However, in exceptional circumstances where we reasonably believe a basic pre-treatment product has significantly failed to perform acceptably, or due to circumstances beyond our control, we may suspend or revoke the approval.

## Associated costs

The applicant bears the cost of evaluation by our on-site trials. These can include, but may not be limited to, sample analysis costs and labour costs for onsite visits.

We will provide an estimate of our costs as part of initial negotiations. The final cost may vary according to the degree of success and the extent to which the trial may be extended or sampling varied.

Should the accounts for services rendered by us to the applicant fall into arrears at any time, we may immediately suspend the trial process upon giving written notice to all involved parties.

The cost of servicing pre-treatment units lies with either the trade waste discharger or the applicant. An arrangement between these two parties must be established before starting the trial.

## Additional information

[Restricted Wastewater Acceptance Framework](#)

[Approved Basic Trade Waste Pre-Treatment Products guideline](#)

[Approved Biological Additives guideline](#)