

How do I apply for approval?

There are 5 steps in the approval process:

Step 1 – Pre-application consultation

Contact Essential Water prior to making an application so that an inspection can be conducted and requirements can be discussed to determine if an application is required and, if so, obtain advice on how to lodge the application.

Step 2 – Receiving the application

Complete the required application form provided by Essential Water, including the listed attachments.

Step 3 – Assessing the application

Essential Water will assess the application against the requirements for discharge.

Step 4 – Seeking administrative advice

Essential Water may be required to seek administrative advice from the Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water.

Step 5 – Finalising the determination

Your application will either be approved, approved with conditions, or denied. Dischargers may also be required to enter into a Liquid Trade Waste Services Agreement.

What will happen next?

An Essential Water representative will contact you in relation to performing a site inspection at your business premises. Samples of your waste water may be taken to help determine what chemicals and waste you may be discharging into our system.

The application process will be explained to you regarding entering into an agreement in accordance with our Trade Waste Policy. Your rights and responsibilities will be explained to you, and you will have the opportunity to ask questions about the trade waste processes.

If you would like more information on liquid trade waste and the process involved with discharging, drop into our essential service centre, visit essentialwater.com.au or call 13 23 91

We're here to help.

Essential Service Centre

Broken Hill
160 Beryl Street

Trade waste disposal

The safe and environmentally responsible disposal of liquid trade waste

For general enquiries call 13 23 91
essentialwater.com.au

Essential Energy trading as Essential Water



What is liquid trade waste?

Liquid trade waste is defined as:

“Liquid trade or factory wastes or chemical or other impurities from any business, trade or manufacturing premises other than domestic sewage from a hand wash basin, shower, bath or toilet. It excludes storm water and unpolluted water.”

Liquid Trade Waste Management Guidelines, DECCW

Liquid trade waste discharged to the sewerage system can include liquid wastes discharged from:

- Business/commercial premises (e.g. beautician, florist, hairdresser, hotel, motel, restaurant, butcher, service station, supermarket, dentist)
- Community/public premises (including craft club, school, college, university, hospital and nursing home)
- Industrial premises
- Trade activities (e.g. mobile carpet cleaner)
- Any commercial activities carried out at residential premises.

Liquid discharges from sale yards, racecourses and from stables and kennels not associated with domestic households are also a liquid trade waste when they are discharged to the sewerage system.

What is not considered trade waste?

- Toilet, hand wash basin, shower and bath wastes derived from all the premises and activities mentioned above
- Wastewater from residential toilets, kitchens, bathrooms or laundries (i.e. domestic sewage)
- Common use (non-residential) kitchen and laundry facilities in a caravan park
- Residential swimming pool backwash and septic tank waste
- Storm water and unpolluted water.

How do I discharge liquid trade waste?

Sewerage systems are generally designed to cater for waste from domestic sources that are of predictable strength and quality. Essential Water may accept trade waste into its sewerage system as a service to businesses and industry.

Liquid trade wastes may exert much greater demands on sewerage systems than domestic sewage. If this is uncontrolled, serious problems can be posed to public health, worker safety, Essential Water's sewerage system and the environment.

What are the impacts of poor liquid trade waste management?

- Grease, oil and solid material, if not removed on-site, can cause blockages in the sewerage system and result in overflows of untreated sewage to the environment
- Strong waste may cause odour problems and corrosion of sewer mains, pumping stations and sewage treatment facilities
- Essential Water's sewage treatment facilities may not be able to handle and treat the waste, or may incur excessive costs in treating the waste.

If you wish to discharge liquid trade waste to the sewerage system you must, under the Water Management (Water Supply Authorities) Regulation 2004, obtain prior approval from Essential Water. Discharging liquid trade waste without an approval is an offence.

Why do I need approval?

- To protect public health
- To protect the health and safety of Essential Water employees
- To protect the environment from the discharge of waste that may have a detrimental effect
- To protect Essential Water assets from damage
- To ensure that reuse of the sewage treatment works effluent or bio-solids is feasible
- To comply with statutory obligations to obtain approval
- To assist Essential Water to meet its statutory obligations.

“Discharging liquid trade waste without approval is an offence.”