

New guidelines have been established by the NSW Government's Department of Energy, Utilities, and Sustainability (DEUS) regarding liquid trade waste. These new guidelines are the *Liquid Trade Waste Management Guidelines, 2005*. Under these guidelines Gosford City Council and businesses in Gosford City have a number of responsibilities they are required to fulfil.

## What is Liquid Trade Waste?

Trade waste is a liquid waste produced by a business, commercial or industrial activity. It is any liquid that goes down the drain and into the sewerage system, excluding domestic waste.

## Managing your Liquid Trade Waste

Trade waste includes liquids from:

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

Liquid waste also includes waste from saleyards, racecourses and from stables and kennels not associated with domestic households.

## Important Information for Central Coast Businesses

Sewerage systems are designed to transport and treat domestic sewage. Sound trade waste management is needed to:

### Protect the environment -

Some substances, such as metals or pesticides, may pass through the treatment facilities unchanged and accumulate in the environment. This can have adverse effects on local animals, plants and waterways and greatly impact on fragile ecosystems.

### Protect public and worker health and safety -

People working in and around the sewerage system can be harmed if toxic substances are discharged into the sewer.

### Protect community assets -

Effective trade waste management helps protect sewer mains, pumping stations and sewage treatment facilities from damage by trade waste.

### Protect the sewerage system -

This improves performance and reduces the frequency of odour complaints and sewer chokes. Grease, oil and solid material if not removed on-site, can cause blockages in the sewerage system and result in overflows of untreated sewage into the environment or into a residential or commercial property. Strong waste can also cause odour problems and corrosion of the sewerage pipes and systems.

Effective trade waste management also improves cost recovery i.e. it improves the commercial pricing of sewerage and liquid trade waste and removes cross-subsidies. This reduces annual sewerage bills as the improved sewerage system performance will 'free up' system capacity.

To effectively manage liquid trade waste in our environment, Council and businesses in Gosford City must work together to achieve and maintain an effective trade waste management system to protect and ensure the sustainability of our environment for the future.

### Your Responsibility as a Business

Any business discharging trade waste, must obtain an approval to do so from Council.

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Either the owner of the premises or the tenant who carries out an activity on the premises may apply for approval. The tenant must have the written consent in order to apply for an approval.

A discharger is responsible for pre-treating their waste to a level acceptable for discharge to the sewer. To assist applicants, Council can provide information on the type of pre-treatment needed or various trade waste generating activities.

### Legislation

Section 68 of the Local Government Act 1993 requires that all trade waste dischargers to a Council sewerage system must have an approval from Council. This applies to both new and existing trade waste dischargers.

A discharger who fails to submit an application form and obtain Council's approval or fails to comply with the conditions of approval may be prosecuted under section 120 (1) of the Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997. In addition, Council may issue a penalty notice under section 222 of that Act.

### Fees and Charges

Businesses are responsible for the payment to Council of water supply, sewerage and liquid waste fees and charges. Businesses will be charged the appropriate fees for their industry in accordance with the determination of the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) dated 23 May 2005.

As of July 1 2005 businesses discharging liquid waste will also be responsible for paying:

- An initial application fee
- An annual licence fee

**Not sure whether this applies to your business?  
Want more information?**

Visit Gosford City Councils Website  
[www.gosford.nsw.gov.au](http://www.gosford.nsw.gov.au) or phone Gosford City Council's Trade Waste section  
on 4368 2377.