



## INDUSTRIAL WASTE PERMITS – PUB 100

### Do I need an Industrial Waste Permit?

The Water Corporation's wastewater system is designed primarily to service households with normal domestic wastewater. However, it is also well suited to handle many types of Industrial Waste, and we endeavour to make the wastewater system available for this purpose wherever we can.

But not all industrial wastes are compatible with our system. So any industry or business in Western Australia that wishes to discharge their industrial waste to the Water Corporation's sewers must first apply to the Corporation for approval.

*Any wastewater discharge from business or industry, other than that which comes from staff amenities or office facilities, is generally classified as Industrial Waste*

### What does an Industrial Waste Permit do ?

Your Permit is your approval to discharge your wastewater to sewer, and any pre-treatment arrangements or limitations necessary to ensure the safe handling of your wastewater are specified in the Conditions associated with your Permit.

We use this Permit licensing system to help us keep track of all non-domestic wastes that are entering our wastewater system, and to provide a mechanism for us to check each new applicant's proposed discharge to make sure we can handle it properly.

### Why do I have 'Conditions' associated with my Permit?

Your application to discharge Industrial Waste is assessed for compatibility with our wastewater system and disposal methods before approval is given, to ensure that any risks to the public or the environment are properly managed.

Not all types of wastewater are compatible with our system, of course, and others are only compatible after being partially treated on site. So rather than simply prohibiting your industrial waste discharge, we'd rather give you whatever options we can.

In such circumstances, we will attach Conditions to your Permit. These will specify any operational arrangements that you'll need to have in place to ensure the safe disposal of your wastewater via our sewer, or any other restrictions that we may need to apply to your discharges.

By following the Conditions set out with your Permit, you can rest assured that your waste will be handled in a way that's safe for the environment, and safe for your local community.

### What should Permit holders do with their Permit ?

First and most important, you should make sure that all of your relevant employees are made familiar with the Permit, the associated Conditions, and any operational arrangements and restrictions that have been put in place. It should then be kept in a safe place at the discharge property, because it has value to you.

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It proves that you have permission to discharge your wastewater to sewer, and it should be available for inspection by an officer of the Water Corporation, Department of Environment Protection or local government if requested.

### **How do changes in my business affect my Permit?**

Your Permit is specific to the particular business owner, business name, location, and operations or processes identified on your Permit.

Therefore, the Water Corporation must be notified *at least 14 days in advance* of any:

- change in any operation or process that in turn causes a change in the nature or volume of wastewater discharging to sewer;
- change in ownership of the business;
- change in the business name; or
- relocation of the business to another site.

In the event that such a change occurs, you will be required to complete a new application, or an application to transfer your Permit, depending on the situation.

### **What other obligations do I have?**

You must ensure that any pre-treatment fixture you have is kept in good condition, is well maintained, and is cleaned or emptied as required for its proper operation.

Poorly maintained fixtures become ineffective, resulting in non-compliant sewer discharges which can pose a threat to our staff, our wastewater system, the public, or the environment.

### **What does an Industrial Waste Permit cost?**

A small Annual Permit Fee is charged to cover our costs of administering the Permit system. These costs are common to all customers, and we try to keep them as low as possible.

Any costs associated with one-off events (such as your initial application and assessment), or any special services provided to individual customers, are not subsidised by the Annual Permit Fee, and separate charges may apply.

Similarly, the Annual Permit Fee does not cover our costs of handling and treating your wastewater. Depending on the nature and scale of your business, these costs are covered either by your normal sewerage service charges, or by specific Industrial Waste 'Quality-Quantity' charges.

Of course, we only charge you for the wastewater you discharge into the sewer. Our charges do not cover the services provided by others, such as supplying or maintaining your plumbing or waste treatment fixtures, disposal of any sludge or by-products captured by your wastewater pre-treatment, or the handling of any other waste streams that are not discharged to sewer.

### **What can happen if I breach my Permit Conditions?**

You must comply with all the Conditions associated with your Permit. They are based on an individual assessment of your business, and are specific to the particular characteristics of your wastewater.

Breaching your Conditions could result in:

- A threat to the health and safety of workers within the wastewater system
- Damage to the physical infrastructure or operation of our wastewater system, or poisoning the biological processes at our treatment plants
- A threat to public health directly from your discharge, or from any sewer failures which might be caused by your discharge
- An inability to reclaim and re-use our treated wastewater, or our 'Biosolids' treatment by-products, in industry or agriculture; or
- A threat to the environment from any failure of the sewer system which your discharge might cause, or by contaminants which cannot be removed by our treatment processes.

By following the conditions set out on your Permit, you can rest assured that your waste is being handled in a way that's safe for the environment, and safe for your local community.

### **Are there penalties for not complying with my Permit conditions?**

Penalties for breaches of your Permit conditions do exist, and we can disconnect your service if breaches are not rectified. We are bound by our own legal duties to protect against unauthorised sewer discharges.

These provisions are only used as a last resort. We prefer to work with you to meet our shared responsibilities to the community and environment, for the safe and effective handling and disposal of your industrial wastes.

In our experience, the vast majority of businesses take their waste management responsibilities seriously, and many are committed to going beyond their compliance obligations. We are always happy to work with our customers, and to resolve any issues that might arise with their wastewater discharges from time to time.

### **More Information?**

You can find more information about the Industrial Waste service on our website at [http://www.watercorporation.com.au//industrialwaste\\_index.cfm](http://www.watercorporation.com.au//industrialwaste_index.cfm) or if you prefer, please call us on 13 13 95.