



ONE OFF DISCHARGES – PUB 15

This brochure describes the requirements for one-off discharges to the sewerage system.

Any industry or business in Western Australia that wishes to discharge industrial waste to the sewer system is **required by law** to apply to the Water 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.

The Water Corporation's wastewater system

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

Not all industrial wastes are compatible with our system. Some wastes may present a risk to our system, the environment, or the public.

What is a one-off discharge?

A one-off discharge is where a business wishes to discharge waste to the sewer system due to unusual or non-routine circumstances. A one-off discharge may be a single discharge event or several related events conducted over a period of time, typically up to 6 months. A one-off discharge may arise from events such as construction site dewatering, industrial process failure, site redemption or adhoc product testing.

Do I need to apply for permission to discharge waste?

Customers who do not have an Industrial Waste Permit must apply to the Water Corporation for approval of a one-off discharge. A one-off discharge application form is available on the Water Corporation website.

Businesses wishing to discharge for a period longer than 6 months must apply for an Industrial Waste permit. (Refer to Pub 100 Industrial Waste Permits)

Note: Discharges from site dewatering are often for periods greater than 6 months, but are usually considered as one-off discharges as they are temporary. Approvals for these types of discharges will be reassessed at six month intervals.

How is my application assessed?

Applications for one-off discharges are assessed on a case-by-case basis. Decisions on whether or not to approve the discharge are made after a thorough investigation into the quality and quantity of the wastewater, and the method and location of discharge into the sewer system.

Your application is assessed for compatibility with our wastewater system. We will determine whether the discharge can be accepted and any conditions that may apply. Conditions may include discharge limits, or the need for specified pre-treatment of the waste. We will provide an estimate of the expected quality and quantity charges and a one-off discharge agreement for your specific circumstances detailing the conditions of the discharge.

13 13 75 Faults, Emergencies & Security
13 13 95 Technical Enquiries
13 13 85 General Enquiries

Printed on environmentally friendly paper



www.watercorporation.com.au

What costs are involved?

Water Corporation

The Water Corporation calculates charges based on quality and the volume of wastewater discharged. These charges cover the costs to the Water Corporation for the handling and treatment of your wastewater.

You will be charged an hourly rate for the involvement of our specialist Industrial Waste Officers in various activities such as: assessment of your application, site inspections, sampling, and job administration.

The current hourly charging rate and the costs for individual wastewater quality parameters are detailed in Industrial Waste Charges Pub 04.

Additional costs will be incurred if you require the Water Corporation to install a connection to the sewer to enable the discharge. Costs for external laboratory sample analysis may also apply.

Other Costs

Additional costs may be incurred for services provided by other organisations, such as:

- supplying or maintaining your plumbing or waste treatment fixtures
- disposal of any treatment by-products, or
- treatment and disposal of waste by other means (i.e. other than by discharge to sewer)

You may also be subject to licensing obligations, and associated charges, from the Department of Environment and Conservation or other regulatory bodies.

You should contact the specific waste service provider, or the appropriate regulatory body, for information on these associated services and your waste licensing obligations.

What obligations do I have?

You must monitor the discharge closely and ensure compliance with your agreement.

The volume and rates of the discharge to sewer must be able to be accurately verified by the Water Corporation during the discharge period. Typically, this would be achieved by the use of an effluent water meter. The meter must be calibrated and maintained in an accurate working order for the period of the discharge. In some instances, you may be required to record daily meter readings and supply them to the Industrial Waste Section of the Water Corporation

You must ensure that any pre-treatment fixtures are in good condition and maintained during the discharge. Poorly maintained fixtures become ineffective, resulting in non-compliant sewer discharges.

What happens if I breach my One-off Discharge agreement?

You must comply with all the conditions associated with your agreement. There are penalties for breaching your agreement and breaching your discharge agreement conditions could result in any of the following:

- threats to the health and safety of our workers and the public
- physical damage to the wastewater system
- poisoning of the biological processes at our treatment plants
- an inability to re-use treated wastewater or treatment by-products in industry or agriculture
- threats to the environment

More Information?

The current version of this information sheet is available on the Water Corporation Internet site at http://www.watercorporation.com.au/industrialwaste_index.cfm. Further information on the issue detailed on this sheet can be obtained by phoning 13 13 95, or by visiting your nearest Water Corporation office.