



CARE FACILITIES – PUB 31

Care facilities are retirement homes/hostels, aged persons homes/hostels, orphanages, childrens' homes/hostels, nursing homes/hostels, convalescent homes/hostels, C class hospitals, and detention facilities.

Care facilities which discharge to sewer are required to obtain an industrial waste permit if the following apply:

- The care facility operates as a business; and
- There are carers on site who process laundry for the facility; and/or
- There are carers on site who prepare meals or heat meals for residents.

Charges based on effluent quality and quantity will apply to these facilities.

Centralised facilities established on a separate site dedicated to providing all the meal preparation and/or all the laundry requirements for the group of facilities are not treated as care facilities. They are categorised as catering businesses, laundry businesses or as combined catering and laundry businesses. Refer to Water Corporation Industrial Waste section for applicable requirements.

Charging Categories

Kitchens

There are two charging categories applicable to care facility kitchens. These are:

- meal heat – where meals are prepared off-site and only heated on-site by carers
- meal preparation – where meals are prepared from raw materials on-site by carers

Laundries

There is only one charging category applicable to care facility laundries. This is for laundry washed on site by carers. Laundry waste streams are exempt from industrial waste charges if:

- facilities send their laundry off-site; or
- washing machines are used solely by residents for their personal laundry.

Charging Options

Care facilities can choose the method by which charges will be applied to their facility.

Option 1 - Charges Based on Bed Numbers

For this option, standard charges are applied on a per-bed basis. This option avoids costly metering requirements and meter reading charges. The chargeable loads in Table 1 will apply.

Option 2 - Charges Based on Metered Volumes

For this option, charges are based on metering the volumes of wastewater discharged.

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The preferred situation is one sub-meter located on incoming cold water supplying both the kitchen and laundry including the hot water systems. Only in extreme circumstances will other metering options be considered.

Meters are read on a periodic basis, the frequency dependent upon the expected volumes to be discharged. Each meter reading will attract a charge. An invoice is issued after each reading.

The quality of the waste stream will be taken to be that shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Quality/Quantity Charges by Category of Care Facility (based on bed numbers)

Process	Volume (kL/bed/day)	Biochemical Oxygen Demand (mg/L)	Suspended Solids (mg/L)
Meal Preparation	0.017 (17 L/bed/day)	1350	300
Meal Heat	0.012 (12 L/bed/day)	1000	250
Laundry	0.107 (107 L/bed/day)	80	40

Note: mg/L = milligrams per litre; kL = kilolitres = 1000 litres

More Information?

The current version of this information sheet is shown 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 visit your nearest Water Corporation office.