The most significant trade waste discharges from retail automotive businesses are those contaminated with fuel or oily hydrocarbons. Hydrocarbons cause toxic or flammable vapours in sewers, and oily residues foul water level sensors and pump switches, potentially resulting in overflows when pumps fail. Hydrocarbons can also interfere with biological treatment processes at wastewater treatment plants.

Suspended solids can accumulate in sewers and pump stations, contributing to odours and blockages.

## Pretreatment

Pretreatment is required to reduce these contaminants to acceptable levels. Suitable pretreatment is a silt sump and an oily water separator such as a coalescing plate separator, vertical gravity separator or hydrocyclone. Oily water separators must be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendations. Collected oil and sludge must be disposed of offsite.

A list of approved pretreatment devices is available on the Water Corporation website at <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/home/business/trade-waste/pre-treatment-products>

Single, double and triple interceptors are no longer acceptable as pretreatment devices.

## Coolant and radiator fluid

The discharge of coolant and radiator fluid to sewer is not permitted. These fluids should be collected and disposed of by a licensed liquid waste contractor.

## Other prohibited discharges

Highly acidic or alkaline wastes, paints, sealants or other products must not be discharged to sewer.

Detergents used in parts washers must be quick-break type.

## Car washes

The requirements for trade waste discharges from car washes are specified in the following link: <https://www.watercorporation.com.au/home/business/trade-waste/trade-waste-in-your-business/car-washes>

For further information email tradewaste@watercorporation.com.au or call 13 13 95.