Liquid Trade Waste

Liquid trade waste fees, charges and compliance actions

Definition

Liquid trade waste (LTW) is any discharge to a sewerage system other than domestic waste from a hand wash basin, shower, bath or toilet.

Central Coast Council is referred to as Council.

Introduction

This Fact Sheet is provided to assist you to treat and dispose of liquid trade waste in an efficient and approved manner.

For further information, please contact Council's Trade Waste Section on 4306 7900.

For LTW application forms, refer to www.centralcoast.nsw.gov.au.

Basis for fees and charges

Rates, charges and fees are determined by the Independent Pricing and Regulatory Tribunal (IPART) and adopted by Council in its annual Management Plan. A current schedule of fees and charges is available on the Council's website.

Council provides sewerage and liquid trade waste services on a commercial (user pays) basis, subject to IPART pricing determinations.

Subject to IPART pricing determinations, Council's liquid trade waste fees and charges will include the following:

- Application fee
- Annual trade waste fee
- Re-inspection fee (where applicable)
- Trade waste usage charge (where applicable)
- Excess mass charges (where applicable)
- Non-compliance excess mass charges (where applicable)
- Septic Tank and Pan Waste disposal charges (where applicable)

Details of the above fees and charges are provided in the following sections.

Note: All dischargers of liquid trade waste to Council's sewerage system should be aware that they are subject to prosecution and imposition of fines under the *Local Government Act 1993*, the *Protection of the Environment (Operations) Act 1997* and its Regulations.

Application fee

The application fee covers the cost of administration and technical services provided in processing an application on a scale related to the discharger's classification and reflects the complexity of processing the application. This fee includes processing change of ownership of the discharger as well as renewing existing approvals.

Annual trade waste fee

The purpose of this fee is to recover the cost incurred by Council for administration and the scheduled inspections each year, to ensure a liquid trade waste discharger's ongoing compliance with the conditions of their approval.

- As part of an inspection, Council or its agents may undertake monitoring of the liquid trade waste discharges from the premises or business. Such monitoring may include, but is not limited to, flow measurement and the sampling of the liquid trade waste.
- Annual liquid trade waste fees are determined, based on the category of the discharger and are proportionate to the complexity of their inspection and administration requirements. Where the discharger is required to pay for monitoring, this is detailed in the approval and charged based on full cost recovery.
- In view of the adverse impact of wastes with a high concentration of oil and grease on Council's sewage transportation system, Council will carry out inspections of commercial premises preparing hot food up to 4 times per annum. The cost of these scheduled inspections is included in the annual trade waste fee for such premises.

Re-inspection fee

Where there is a non-compliance with the conditions of your approval and you are required to address these issues, Council undertakes re-inspections to confirm that remedial action has been satisfactorily implemented. Council charges a fee for each re-inspection. In addition, a re-inspection may include the analysis of liquid trade waste discharges. If so, you may be required to pay costs incurred.

Trade waste usage charge

This charge is only applicable to Category 2 dischargers and is in addition to the Sewerage Usage Charge. It is based on volume in kilolitres (kL) of liquid trade waste discharged.

Trade Waste Usage Charge ($) = *Q x* U

Where:

Q = Volume (kL) of liquid trade waste discharged to sewer.

U = Trade waste usage charge rate ($/kL)

A base trade waste usage charge applies to Category 2 dischargers with appropriate pre-treatment equipment that has been properly maintained.

An increased trade waste usage charge is applied to Category 2 dischargers where pre-treatment is non-compliant because it has not been provided or the pre-treatment equipment is not properly maintained.

Example 1: Trade waste usage charge applied to compliant pre-treatment equipment

Q = 300 kL of volume discharged

U = $/kL (from Council's Management Plan) in this example $1.71/kL is assumed.

Trade waste usage charge ($) = 300 *x* $1.71

= $513.00

Example 2: Trade waste usage charge applied to non-compliant pre-treatment equipment

Q = 300 kL of volume discharged

U = $/kg (from Council's Management Plan) in this example $14.59/kL is assumed.

Trade waste usage charge ($) = 300 *x* $14.59

= $4,377.00

Septage and septic waste disposal charge

This charge applies to the disposal of septage and septic waste, including chemical toilet waste.

Septage and Septic Waste Disposal Charge $ = Q x S

Where:

Q = Volume (kL) of waste discharged to sewer.

S = Charge rate $/kL for septage and septic waste as indicated in Council's Management Plan.

Excess mass charges

This charge is only applicable to Category 3 discharges.

Excess mass charges apply to substances discharged in excess of the deemed concentrations in domestic sewage, as specified in the table below. For example, the deemed concentration of total oil and grease is 50 milligrams per litre (mg/L) and the approval limit granted to you is 100 mg/L. If the concentration of total oil and grease in the discharge is 150 mg/L, excess mass charges apply for the mass calculated for the volume discharged with total oil and grease concentration between 50 and 100 mg/L. Non-compliant excess mass charges apply for the mass calculated for the volume discharged with total oil and grease concentration above 100 mg/L.

Substance	Deemed concentration (mg/L)
Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD)	300
Suspended Solids	300
Total Oil and Grease	50
Ammonia (as Nitrogen)	35
pH	7.0 – 9.0
Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen	50
Total Phosphorus	10
Total Dissolved Solids	1000
Sulphate (SO_4)	50*

*SO_4 concentration: the higher of 50 mg/L or the concentration in the potable water supply.

Non-compliant excess mass charge

A non-compliant excess mass charge applies when a discharge exceeds the approved concentration limits of substances specified in Council's approval conditions (or the acceptance criterion listed in Council's trade waste fact sheets).

Council continues to apply the non-compliant excess mass charge until the quality of discharge complies with Council's approved quality limits, within the time frame Council allows to fix the problem. If the issue is not fixed within the allowed time frame, Council may require you to cease discharging liquid trade waste into the sewerage system and may take legal action for costs associated with the non-complying discharge.

Non-compliant excess mass discharges will apply to recover Council's costs.

Non-compliant action

Council may seek compensation for its costs relating to legal action, damage to infrastructure, incurred fines and other matters resulting from illegal, prohibited or unapproved liquid trade waste being discharged to the sewerage system. This compensation may be pursued by legal action.

Fines can be applied for non-compliant liquid trade waste discharges to sewer under:

- Section 120(1) of *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997*, when pollution of any waters is caused by a discharger who fails to comply with the conditions of approval for discharge of liquid trade waste to the sewerage system
- *Local Government Act 1993*, Section 627 (Failure to comply with an approval) and Section 628 (Failure to comply with an order).
- Penalties for the discharge of non-compliant trade waste to the sewerage system may be pursued by legal action.

Responsibility for payment of fees and charges

Section 560 and 561 of the *Local Government Act 1993* stipulate that the property owner is liable for payment of Council fees and charges.

If the property owner deems that the liquid trade waste fees and charges are the responsibility of the lessee, this matter is to be resolved between the property owner and the lessee.

Summary of Trade Waste Fees and Charges

Liquid Trade Waste category	1	2	3	S
Application fee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Annual non-residential sewerage bill with appropriate sewerage usage	Yes	Yes	Yes	**Yes
Annual trade waste fee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Re-inspection fee (if required)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Trade waste usage charge per kilolitre	No	Yes	No	No
Non-compliant trade waste usage charge per kilolitre	*Yes	*Yes	No	No
Septage and septic waste disposal charge	No	No	No	Yes
Excess mass charges per kilolitre	No	No	Yes	No
Non-compliant excess mass charges (if required)	No	No	Yes	No

*** A non-compliant trade waste usage charge applies if the discharger fails to install or properly maintain appropriate pre-treatment equipment.**

**** This charge is only applicable if the discharger has a dump point located at their premises which is connected to the sewerage system. All non-residential or business rated private pumping station premises pay these charges.**

Trade Waste fees and charges do not apply to Category 1 business activities, as outlined in the Liquid Trade Waste Fact Sheet.

Assessment of Discharge Volumes

For the purposes of calculating usage and penalty charges, discharged volumes are assessed by one of the following methods:

- installation of a flow measuring device on the discharge
- estimation based on pumping time where the discharge is pumped to sewer
- estimation based on metered water usage

Estimations based on metered water usage are determined by applying appropriate discharge factors. A discharge factor represents a percentage of the metered water consumption, which is discharged to the sewerage system.

Discharge factors are applied to the potable water meter reading, to calculate the estimated volume for the type of liquid trade waste generated by your business. These factors are applied unless they are considered inappropriate for your type of operation. If you believe that this is the case, you may request a review of the discharge factor applied to your business, which is undertaken by the Trade Waste section. Any determination only applies while the nature of your business operation remains unchanged.

The two types of discharge factors used are described below.

Sewer discharge factor

The sewer discharge factor includes all discharge to the sewerage system i.e. liquid trade waste and domestic sewerage, and in some cases, first flush stormwater from open areas. The sewer discharge factor is the ratio of the estimated volume discharged into the sewerage system to the total water consumption. Additional information is available in Appendix G of the NSW Department of Industry Water, Liquid Trade Waste Regulation Guidelines, 2009.

Liquid trade waste discharge factor

The liquid trade waste discharge factor is the volume of wastewater that is discharged from the trade waste processes. It is the ratio of the estimated volume of liquid trade waste discharged into the sewerage system to the total water consumption.

Typical household water usage table

This table is provided to assist with the estimation of liquid trade waste discharge volumes.

Activity	Water Usage
Automatic washing machine	73 – 250 litres per load
Car washing with a hose	100 – 300 litres
Dishwasher	20 – 60 litres per wash
Hand basin	5 litres per day
Shower	40 – 250 litres

Preventing water waste

Water must be used efficiently and must be recycled where practicable. It is an offence to waste or misuse water, under section 637 of the *Local Government Act 1993* and its Regulations.

The owner, occupier or manager of premises to which water is supplied by Council is required to prevent waste of water by taking prompt action to repair leaking taps, pipes or fittings located on the premises, and take any other action that is reasonable to prevent waste and misuse of water.

Dilution of liquid trade waste with water from any non-process source, including Council's water supply, bore water, groundwater and/or stormwater as a means of reducing pollutant concentration is prohibited.