



## Understanding liquid waste

A guide for food businesses

### What is liquid waste?

If your business performs commercial, trade, experimental or industrial processes, then you probably produce liquid trade waste.

**Liquid waste** or 'trade waste' is non-domestic waste generated by any industry, business, trade or manufacturing process acceptable for discharge to our network. It does not include domestic waste.

**Domestic sewage** is wastewater and all substances contained in it arising from the use of water, typically in residences, which is produced by a person in the usual course of daily living, is non-commercial in amount and nature and has not been stored or pumped.



### Why is liquid waste regulated?

Sewerage systems are designed to transport and treat domestic sewage, not the harsh chemicals produced by commercial works.

Grease, oil and solid materials can cause blockages, corrosion and strong odours in the sewerage pipes and systems. Blockages can result in overflows of untreated sewage into the environment or into a residential or commercial property.

Ensuring only the right things enter the network protects against damages and blockages. Effective liquid waste management can also reduce sewerage bills by improving sewerage system performance and freeing up system capacity, resulting in less ongoing management costs.

#### Food preparation activities:

Discharges from commercial retail food preparation activities are categorised into two groups:

- activities that generate fats, oils or greasy types of waste
- activities that do not generate fats, oils or greasy types of waste.

If your business **does generate greasy and oily waste** you are required to have grease traps installed. Contact us to discuss your requirements. Businesses with chicken, duck and meat barbecuing facilities with a steam oven or gas vat are required to install an oil and fat interceptor upstream of the grease trap.

If you **do not generate greasy or oily waste**, or do not prepare food on site, you may still be required to install sink and floor drain screens or strains and must supply Icon Water with a written declaration stating that there will be no on-site cooking, preparation or serving of foods that generate greasy or oily residues.

## It is important that you understand your requirements and minimise your impact on the network and environment.

### Housekeeping practices:

- ensure the business has a grease trap as required according to the food preparation activities
- collect fats, oils and discrete oils used for, or generated from, food preparation for disposal by an authorised oil recycler
- pre-wipe utensils, plates, bowls etc. to the scrap bin before washing up
- ensure only wash water from the cleaning of cooking equipment to be discharged to the sewerage system via the grease trap
- implement a cleaning and maintenance schedule and recording process
- install appropriate sink and floor waste screening
- dry sweep floors before washing
- store oils and chemicals away from drains in case of spillage
- store garbage in an area that is roofed and banded

The use of food waste disposal units is not permitted in non-domestic premises (also known as insinkerator, in-sink food waste disposers, or garbage grinders). Wastes should instead be placed in the appropriate scrap bins.

Visit [iconwater.com.au/tradewaste](https://iconwater.com.au/tradewaste) to learn more about your pre-treatment requirements.

## When is an Icon Water liquid trade waste approval necessary?

In many cases, the approval process serves to inform Icon Water that the premises pose no trade waste risk. An approval must be obtained before Access Canberra will approve the associated plumbing and drainage plans.

Approval is required for any of the following situations:

- new or existing premises of a non-domestic nature
- non-domestic fitouts involving changes to plumbing or drainage
- home business fitouts which may pose a trade waste risk (e.g. catering)
- changes to the circumstances of an existing approval, including changes of ownership

## Who makes the application?

The property owner or primary tenant must submit and sign an application for trade waste approval for that property. Property owners can appoint agents with the authority to act and sign on their behalf.

If you are leasing your property, ensure you have included proper trade waste management in your lease agreement.

## How do I get an application form?

Download the form from [iconwater.com.au/tradewaste](https://iconwater.com.au/tradewaste), email [trade.waste@iconwater.com.au](mailto:trade.waste@iconwater.com.au), call us on 02 6248 3222 or visit us in person at 12 Hoskins St, Mitchell ACT 2911.

## Information requirements for liquid trade waste applications

- Site owner's full name and contact details
- Information about business/industry where discharge to sewerage system is to occur; including:
  - address and site contact person and their details
  - proposed date of commencement of discharge to the sewerage system
  - type of business activity
  - hours of business operation
- Proposed rate of discharge, including:
  - average per day, maximum per day and per hour
  - hours of the day during which discharge takes place
- Site plan, including pre-treatment and operational information

## Contact us

[trade.waste@iconwater.com.au](mailto:trade.waste@iconwater.com.au)  
(02) 6248 3222 [@iconwater](https://www.instagram.com/iconwater)

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Language assistance

13 14 50 | 24 hours

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