



Understanding liquid waste

A guide for mobile food van owners and operators

Food preparation and cooking in your food van or at a food outlet facility produces liquid trade waste

Liquid waste or 'liquid trade waste' (LTW) is classified as any wastewater other than domestic waste. It includes, but is not limited to waste generated by any commercial business, trade or manufacturing process, and includes stored or tankered waste that is acceptable for discharge into the Icon Water sewer network.

Did you know that GREASY LIQUID WASTE MUST NOT be discharged down the drain?

Large quantities of cooking or washing up water

Cooking residue, fats and oils

Food particles

Blockages of sewer network pipes are costly to you, the community and the environment.

Fatty, oily or greasy types of liquid waste from food vans includes all cooking water, any food residues and washing up water from your food preparation, serving or cleaning up.

If your business generates any of this type of liquid waste from your food van or from food preparation at other premises, you are required to submit an Application for Approval to discharge the liquid waste to the Icon Water sewer network.

Contact the Icon Water Liquid Trade Waste Team to discuss your requirements.

Checklist for food van operators

Liquid waste discharges from commercial retail food preparation activities have been divided into two groups:

- 1. Activities that do not generate greasy/oily types of waste**

If you are not cooking or preparing food, or washing dishes / utensils in the food van or at other food premises and only serving wine, cold drinks or coffee, and

 - not discharging to sewer, then no Icon Water Trade Waste Approval is required
 - discharging to sewer, you need a Trade Waste Approval with a "No cooking" declaration. No pre-treatment through a grease trap is required.

- 2. Activities that do generate greasy/oily types of waste**

If you are cooking and preparing food in the van or at other food premises, and generating dishwashing water, greasy or oily liquid waste and food particles, and discharging the liquid wastewater to sewer

 - an Icon Water Trade Waste Approval and an approved grease trap is required
 - all oily or greasy liquid trade wastewater must undergo pre-treatment through a grease trap before discharging to the sewer.

Note: The oily or greasy wastewater from cooking or washing up must not be disposed of via storm water drains. These drains are not connected to the sewerage system and doing so will pollute our waterways and local rivers.

Liquid waste disposal at events

All food van operators and food stallholders who participate in one-off events should contact event management to discuss liquid waste disposal arrangements, including wastewater collection such as in an Intermediate Bulk Container (IBC / Bulkibox) or liquid waste tank.

If no IBC is available, then as a food van operator you will need to organise the collection of your liquid waste for disposal by an approved waste contractor.

Why is liquid waste for food vans regulated

Sewerage management in the ACT

Icon Water owns and operates the sewerage system in the ACT. This consists of a network of pipes that takes sewage away from properties and carries it to a treatment plant where it is treated and safely recycled back to the environment and the Murrumbidgee River system.

Fats, oils or greasy waste and solid residues from food preparations can cause blockages, corrosion and strong odours in sewerage pipes and systems. Blockages may result in overflows of untreated sewage into the environment or into a residential or commercial property.

Ensuring only acceptable liquid trade waste enters the network protects sewers against damage and blockages. Effective liquid waste management can also reduce sewerage bills by improving sewerage system performance.

Understand the requirements and minimise your impact on the sewer network and the environment. Visit iconwater.com.au/tradewaste to learn more about your pre-treatment requirements.

Housekeeping practices for operating your food van

- ensure you have installed a wastewater collection tank where applicable
- collect fats, oils and residual oils generated from, or used for food preparation, to be disposed of by an authorised waste contractor
- pre-wipe utensils, plates, bowls or containers to the scrap bin before washing up
- place all food waste in the appropriate scrap bin
- clean spillages with paper towel or absorbent material and dispose to solid waste
- ensure only wash water from the cleaning of cooking equipment is discharged to the sewerage system via a grease trap
- implement a service agreement with a cleaning contractor if the liquid waste is to be captured in a waste tank
- install appropriate screens in the sinks used for food preparation
- store oils and chemicals away from drains in case of spillage

When is an Icon Water liquid waste approval necessary?

In many cases the approval process serves to inform Icon Water that the food van poses no trade waste risk. An Icon Water Trade Waste Approval must be obtained before ACT Health will grant a Food License for the food van.

Approval is required for any of the following situations:

- before a new food van begins operating
- when a food van with an existing approval changes its food preparation activities
- when there is a change in ownership of a food van with an existing approval
- when there is a change in the circumstances of an existing approval.

Who makes the application?

Food van owners / operators must submit a signed application for Trade Waste Approval.

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

How do I get an application form?

Detailed information regarding liquid trade waste management, including downloading application forms and Icon Water's Trade Waste Acceptance Policy and Guidelines are available on our website iconwater.com.au/tradewaste.

Contact us

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Language assistance

13 14 50 | 24 hours

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