

# Environment Information Sheet

## DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

### Trade Waste Management



Pollution control device at the Darwin International Airport

Trade waste is any liquid waste generated in the course of commercial and industrial activities on the airport. Trade waste liquid means any liquid, including water that contains a trade waste substance approved for discharge to sewer. It does not include domestic wastewater from residential premises or wastewater generated by persons using domestic fixtures within a workplace.

Trade waste and trade waste water are potential pollutants. Disposing or permitting these products to discharge to stormwater is prohibited and they can only be discharged to sewer under license if the concentrations are within acceptable trade waste limits specified in the Power and Water Corporation Management System.

These wastes are controlled by Power and Water Corporation via the Trade Waste Code under the trade waste laws of the Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act 2017.

The airport sewerage reticulation system discharges to a pump station which transfers the sewage to the Power and Water Corporation system for treatment and disposal.

#### WHAT TYPE OF TRADE WASTE OCCURS AT DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT?

Examples of some of the trade wastes generated at airports include:

- **Grease and fat waste**  
Grease and fat are generated through food preparation and cooking. Wash up water containing grease and fat must be discharged to the sewer via an approved pre-treatment equipment or a grease arrestor. Any concentrated grease and fat waste should not be discharged to sewer but should be removed in appropriate containers by approved waste removalists.
- **Petroleum hydrocarbons**  
Found in diesel, petrol, solvents, liquefied petroleum gas, engine oil, grease and degreasers. These can release flammable gases in the sewers therefore discharging these substances to sewer is strictly controlled. There are strict guidelines for the concentrations that can be discharged to sewer.
- **Metals (lead, zinc, copper, iron, chromium, nickel and aluminum)**  
Found in leaded petrol, radiators, engine parts, batteries and the residue from chemically cleaning engine blocks. These are all contaminants which the sewerage treatment processes can't treat therefore their release to sewer is strictly controlled. These have strict guidelines and concentrations on what can be discharged to sewer.

- **Chlorinated solvents and phenols**

Found in de-carbonising solutions and degreasers. These products, which can't be processed within the sewerage treatment processes, pose a significant health risk. These have strict guidelines and concentrations on what can be discharged to sewer.

- **Surfactants**

Found in detergents and other cleaning products, including biodegradable products. These products in uncontrolled quantities interfere with sewage treatment processes and therefore are strictly controlled. These have strict guidelines and concentrations on what can be discharged to sewer.

- **Hair and lint**

Hair and lint discharged from kennels and laundries can cause sewer blockages and must be trapped in bucket traps, or cooling and straining pits.

- **Solids**

Solids from car-washes and kitchens must also be removed from the waste stream.

A liquid, including water, containing any of these products is trade waste water and must be disposed of appropriately either via sewer or a licensed waste contractor. None of these products may be allowed to enter stormwater.

#### THE LAW AND WHAT THIS MEANS FOR YOU AT DARWIN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

All trade waste discharges to sewer are controlled by Power and Water Corporation. Under Section 83(4) of the Water Supply and Sewerage Services Act 2017; it is an offence to discharge any substance into an asset owned by Power and Water Corporation without written agreement.

#### WHAT IS A TRADE WASTE PERMIT AND WHO NEEDS ONE?

Darwin International Airport has a Trade Waste Permit from Power and Water Corporation. This is an agreement that controls the quality and volume of trade waste liquids discharged into the Power and Water Corporation sewer system from the airport.

A Trade Waste Permit specifies:

- The type and quantity of trade waste liquid that may be disposed to sewer
- The type and level of treatment the trade waste liquid must undergo before discharge to the sewer is permitted
- The type and frequency of maintenance of any trade waste treatment facility required
- The type and frequency of monitoring of the trade waste being disposed to sewer
- The trade waste acceptance limits

Any business that produces a trade waste liquid that it is disposed to sewer must complete a Trade Waste Application. The application must be submitted to the airport for its addition to the Airport's Trade Waste Agreement with Power and Water Corporation authorising the discharge of that liquid to sewer.

Pre-treatment facilities include grease traps, interceptor pits, averaging pits, corrugated plate interceptors, separator systems, bucket traps and the like. As with all equipment they require regular maintenance to ensure they continue to operate effectively. The wastes they remove from the trade waste liquid must be removed and disposed of by an appropriately licensed bulk waste contractor (i.e. a contractor licensed by Power and Water Corporation and the Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport).

#### COST OF TRADE WASTE

The cost of trade waste licensing and discharge was introduced in 2013. The trade waste levy is calculated on the quality and kL volume of trade waste being discharged into the Power and Water Corporation sewer network, and this is usually assessed as an estimated percentage of total site water discharge.

Darwin International Airport and Power and Water Corporation use the Trade Waste Application forms and sampling/site inspections to assess quality and the estimated percentage of waste discharge per tenant/device.

#### CONTACTS AND FURTHER INFORMATION

##### **Power and Water Corporation**

Trade Waste Team

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[www.powerwater.com.au/tradewaste](http://www.powerwater.com.au/tradewaste)

##### **Darwin International Airport**

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The information provided in this sheet is of a general nature and may or may not apply or be appropriate to your particular circumstances. It is not legal advice nor is it a substitute for obtaining legal or other professional advice from a qualified person. It is the responsibility of every tenant and occupier of land on the Airport to comply with the Airports Act, all airport related Regulations, and other laws relating to occupying land at the Airport and the conduct of a business on that land. To understand your obligations you should make your own inquiries and consult a professional or other qualified advisor regarding your particular circumstances and situation.