

About this guide

Increased levels of grease, oil and other unacceptable industrial contaminants are being discharged into sewerage reticulation systems with the potential to adversely impact on safety, treatment facilities, the environment and possible reuse.

In June 2004, the Victorian Government handed down a document commonly known as “The White Paper – Securing our Water Future Together”. That document states:

‘Trade wastes will be managed to reduce the impacts of discharges from wastewater treatment plants on the environment.’

As a result of this, Gippsland Water, along with many other Victorian Water Authorities have committed to work with Trade Waste customers, focusing on waste minimisation and cleaner production best practices, to better manage and reduce the impact that Trade Waste discharged to sewer has on our environment.

As the Wastewater Authority for the Central Gippsland Region, Gippsland Water has developed a Trade Waste Program to provide industry with an effective and economical system for the minimisation, treatment and disposal of waste. The program is based on Gippsland Water’s Trade Waste Policy and By-Law No.14. The aim of the program is to work closely with businesses to minimise and monitor waste discharges to the sewerage system.

The Water Act (1989) requires any business discharging trade waste to sewer, to have a properly completed and signed Trade Waste Agreement with Gippsland Water. The agreement outlines the conditions under which Gippsland Water will consent to the discharge of Trade Waste to our sewerage reticulation systems.

Why does Gippsland Water manage Trade Waste?

Effective management of Trade Waste assists in protecting Gippsland Water assets such as sewer pipe reticulation systems, pump stations and Wastewater Treatment Plants. Gippsland Water must comply with very specific licence limits issued by the EPA in regards to the quality of treated wastewater that is discharged to the environment. Poorly managed, or non compliant trade waste, that is discharged to Gippsland Water’s sewer reticulation system can have significant impact on discharge licences, the cost of treating waste at our Wastewater Treatment Plants, and can also limit reuse opportunities.



Gippsland Water responds to almost 200 sewer overflows per year. Nearly one third of these blockages can be attributed to non compliant trade waste being discharged to sewer. The cost of containing these overflows is significant, but more importantly large overflows can adversely effect the environment and must be reported to the EPA.

What is Trade Waste?

Wastewater received by Gippsland Water includes domestic wastewater from all of our homes, but also includes wastewater from industries, commercial and manufacturing processes. This wastewater is referred to as Trade Waste.

Trade Waste is the liquid waste generated by an industry, business, trade or manufacturing process, other than domestic waste, which is acceptable for discharge to sewer.

Two common types of Trade Waste are ‘Greasy Waste’ and ‘Oily Waste’. **Greasy Waste** contains fats and grease. It mainly originates from the washing procedure during the preparation of food. **Oily Waste** originates from the motor industry (washing of engines, cars, service stations, etc).

Typical Trade Waste Premises

The types of businesses that are generally considered by Gippsland Water to be Trade Waste customers are as follows:

• Bakeries.	• Restaurants/Cafes.	• Hostels.
• Butchers.	• Reception Centres.	• Agri-Business.
• Cafeterias/Canteens.	• Takeaway Food Premises.	• Dry Cleaners.
• Child Care Centres with Food Preparation.	• Food Production Premises.	• Electro Platers.
• Clubs with Food Preparation.	• Service Stations.	• Premises with Garbage wash areas.
• Coffee & Sandwich Shops.	• Petrol Depots.	• Laboratories (schools & commercial).
• Halls with Food Preparation.	• Vehicle Wash Centres.	• Laundromats.
• Delicatessens.	• Mechanical Workshops.	• Livestock Sale yards.
• Donut Shops.	• Vehicle Detailers.	• Medical.
• Functions Centres – (Commercial & Private).	• Vehicle Retail Outlets.	• Photo Laboratory/ Chemical.
• Hotels/Motels with Food Preparation.	• Panel Beating/Spray Painting.	• Public Swimming Pools.
• Ice-Cream Parlours.	• Chemical Plants.	• Tanneries/Wool Scourers.
	• Hospitals.	• Treated Timber Producers.
	• Nursing Homes.	

Business owners that recognise their business as being one of those listed above are required to apply for Consent to discharge Minor Trade Waste.

Properly completed applications received by Gippsland Water will be individually considered by a Gippsland Water representative.

Trade Waste Charges

Pre-treatment apparatus such as Grease/Oil interceptors are not sophisticated enough to remove all the pollutants in wastewater. Further treatment is therefore required downstream at our Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Your Trade Waste charges helps Gippsland Water manage Trade Waste including waste monitoring, provision of additional treatment as well as periodic inspection of interceptors. The annual fee, published in ‘Gippsland Water’s Notice of Tariffs’, is charged in three separate instalments across the year and will appear on your four monthly Gippsland Water invoice.

Trade Waste fees are not to be confused with normal Water and Wastewater fixed and volumetric charges.

Pre Treatment

The purpose of a grease or oil interceptor is to trap grease and oil at the source and prevent it entering the sewerage system, where it may cause blockages. Depending on the type of business other types of pre-treatment apparatus may also be required. Gippsland Water staff can assist businesses to determine what sort of pre-treatment is required or whether an existing trap needs to be upgraded. A registered plumber will need to be engaged to carry out any works such as this.

Ensuring regular cleaning and removal of accumulated grease and oil from your interceptor is your responsibility and must be carried out by an EPA licensed transporter.

Your Trade Waste Agreement will outline the required frequency that business owner’s are required to have pre-treatment apparatus cleaned out.

Remember these Easy tips !



Wipe before washing



Pour used oil into containers for recycling



Use less cooking oil where you can



Collect food scraps for composting



Use less detergent



Sweep floors before washing or hosing



Ensure that no oil goes down the drain

Cleaner Production & Waste Minimisation

The Environment Protection Authority (EPA) provides the following waste hierarchy which Gippsland Water fully supports (*in order of preference*):

- Avoidance
- Re-use
- Recycling
- Recovery of Energy
- Treatment
- Containment
- Disposal

Here are some tips to consider in your daily business activities which will help to reduce greasy waste, protect the environment and save you money:

- ✓ Wipe before washing
- ✓ Pour used oil into containers for recycling
- ✓ Use less cooking oil where you can
- ✓ Collect food scraps for composting
- ✓ Use less detergent
- ✓ Sweep floors before washing or hosing
- ✗ **Ensure that NO OIL goes down the drain !!!!!!!!**



Minor Trade Waste



CUSTOMER BROCHURE

Gippsland Water is committed to the efficient management of Trade Waste and actively works with businesses to promote cleaner production.

Trade Waste Enquiries

Gippsland Water encourages any customers who require further information, or a Minor Trade Waste Agreement application form to visit our website or to contact our Minor Trade Waste Officer using the contact details listed below.

Please address all Trade Waste enquiries to:

Minor Trade Waste Officer
Gippsland Water
PO Box 348, Traralgon VIC 3844

Telephone: 1800 066 401

Website: www.gippswater.com.au

