

Fuels, solvents, metals, battery acids, flammable substances and caustic cleaners used in mechanical workshops can pollute our waterways, damage sewers and affect the health of sewerage system workers.



Your business must install equipment to remove harmful substances from wastewater before it is discharged to the sewerage system. This does not apply if you use a 'dry' process in your workshop. For more details, see the back of this fact sheet.

If you use a floor drain or wash bay you will need to remove oil-based pollutants from wastewater using an oil water separation system. Areas that should be treated by an oil water separator include degreasing bays, vehicle washing areas, and workshop floors.

If you discharge trade wastewater to the sewer, you will need to obtain a trade waste permit.

Tips to help reduce the impact of your trade wastewater on the environment

Damaged vehicle enters the workshop

Leaking motor oil, radiator fluid, brake fluid, battery acid and fuel can leak from damaged vehicles prior to repair work. To minimise the risk from spills:

- Wipe up spills immediately, place trays under leaking parts and use a pressure spray to wash the floor. Pump washwater to the sewer via an oil water separator.
- Do not drain neat fuel or neat oil to a pit that is pumped to the sewer through an oil water separator.
- Capture and store brake fluid, motor oil and fuels in drums for off-site removal by a licensed contractor.
- Capture and store used radiator fluid for removal off-site.

Store batteries in a bunded area where waste and spills drain to a blind pit. Place a plastic pallet under the batteries.

Parts and engine washing

Washing and cleaning motor vehicle parts and engines creates waste such as oil, grit and residues from caustic cleaners and solvents.

- Wash small parts in a solvent-based recycling parts washer.
- Use a pressure cleaner and quick break detergent to wash large parts and engines. Please discharge the washwater to the sewer via your oil water separator. The wash area should be covered by a roof and bunded to contain washwater and exclude rainwater.
- If you use a chemical bath to clean engine blocks and engine heads, refer to our fact sheet *Engine reconditioners*.



Floor washdown

- Use bunds to prevent washwater leaving the wash area.
- Wash the floor with a quick break detergent and pressure cleaner. It's a good idea to hose in the direction of the collection well in the wash area.

Using a dry process in your workshop

A dry process means the work area is not connected to sewer or stormwater systems and the workshop operates without a floor drain or wash bay. This method poses the least risk to the environment and saves you the cost of obtaining a trade waste permit and oil water separator.

- Wipe up spills straight away using sawdust, cotton waste or other absorbent Material
- Seal the floor so that it can be mopped or swept - do not use a hose.
- Wash engines and parts in a parts wash recycler.
- Install bunds to repel rain and stop liquid wastes escaping to the sewer or stormwater system.
- Make sure the car is completely inside the bunded area before commencing any work.
- Use trays to collect drips from the car.
- Install a bund around oil storage areas to prevent oil spills and other liquids entering the sewer or stormwater system.
- Install a blind pit within the bunded area to collect drainage from the lowest point within the bund. A blind pit has no connection to the sewer or stormwater system.
- Use a plastic pallet within the bunded area to collect spills from oil drums or liquid containers.
- Capture and recycle radiator waste.
- Store waste oils, fuels, solvents, paints and degreasers in separate containers for off-site removal by a licensed transporter.
- Capture oils and other car engine liquids in a drum for collection by a licensed transporter.
- Store batteries in a bunded area on top of a plastic pallet. Waste and spills in this area should drain to a blind pit.
- Do not store batteries containing liquid outside. Remove the batteries off-site for recycling as soon as possible.

If your premises are connected to or have the ability to discharge into, Council's Sewerage or Storm Water drains; you are subject to Council's Storm Water and Trade Waste bylaws; which means that you may be required to make an application to discharge to these drains; on receipt of the application Council shall decide whether to issue you with conditions of discharge by way of a consent; which is monitored.

Need more info?

**Call: The Pollution Control Team
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Ph: 07 348 4199**