



Fact Sheet

Liquid Trade Waste

Trade waste refers to any liquid waste discharged from commercial or industrial premises into the sewerage system that is not classified as domestic sewage. It includes:

- Wastewater from food preparation, manufacturing, or processing
- Effluent from vehicle washing, mechanical workshops, or laboratories
- Liquids containing fats, oils, grease (FOG), chemicals, heavy metals, or high organic loads

In some instances, Trade Waste must be pre-treated before discharge to protect public sewer infrastructure and wastewater treatment plants.

Who Are Trade Waste Producers?

You are considered a trade waste producer if your business or facility generates liquid waste in a commercial capacity that enters public sewer infrastructure, and originates from:

- Restaurants, cafés, and food manufacturers
- Automotive workshops and car washes
- Hospitals, dental clinics, and laboratories
- Commercial laundries and dry cleaners
- Any other industrial or commercial sites that discharges wastewater with the above criteria



Responsibilities of Trade Waste Producers

Trade waste producers within the Shire must:

- Hold a valid trade waste approval from Douglas Shire Council
- Install and maintain pre-treatment systems where required (e.g., grease traps, oil/water separators, pH neutralizers)
- Comply with sewer acceptance criteria for pollutants like pH, BOD, COD, TSS, FOG, and heavy metals
- Prevent sewer blockages and corrosion by controlling discharge quality and avoid interference with wastewater treatment plants by limiting toxic or high-strength waste
- Maintain accurate records of waste volumes, equipment maintenance, and servicing
- Report spills or non-compliance incidents immediately to Douglas Shire Council
- Comply with routine site inspection and facility monitoring undertaken by Douglas Shire Council

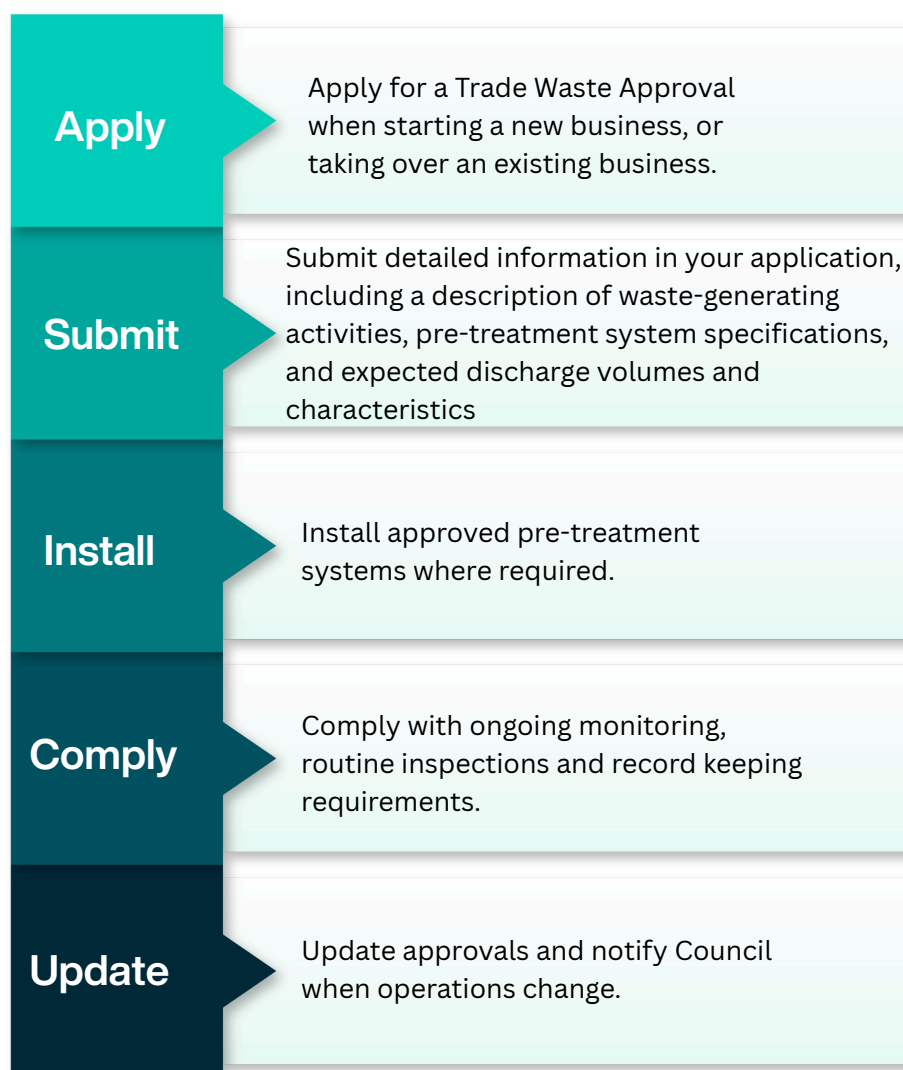




Trade Waste Approval – What You Need To Know

Annual trade waste approvals are issued for a period of 12 months, from 1st September to 31st August.

To legally discharge trade waste in the Douglas Shire, producers must:



Trade waste drainage systems must be compliant with the Plumbing and Drainage Act 2018 and Plumbing Code of Australia (AS/NZS 3500), as assessed by Council's plumbing inspector.

Why Compliance Matters

Holding a trade waste approval isn't just a box to tick—it's about protecting our shared environment, public infrastructure and private property. When businesses discharge untreated or excessive waste into the sewer system, it may:

- impact Council's wastewater treatment plants, reducing their effectiveness resulting in the release of harmful contaminants to our pristine environment
- damage internal pipes, leading to costly repairs for property owners
- damage public infrastructure

If a business' discharge causes a sewer blockage, infrastructure damage, or environmental harm, Council may impose cost recovery charges to cover any callouts, repairs and replacements parts. By following the rules and maintaining your pre-treatment systems, you're helping keep our wastewater systems safe, sustainable, and efficient for everyone.

Failure to comply with requirements or conditions under Council's Environmental Trade Waste Management Plan may result in fines and penalties under the Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008, and a suspension or cancellation of trade waste approval.