

TRADE WASTE CHARGES

Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008
Local Government Act 2009

What is trade waste?

Trade waste is wastewater discharged from business premises such as trade, industrial, commercial, medical, dental, veterinary, agricultural, horticultural, scientific/experimental research and salons.

How is trade waste charged?

Trade waste adds a burden to the sewer system and requires additional treatment processes. If a business discharges trade waste to the sewer, then the property owner is charged separately for this on their rates notice.

The charge has two components:

- an annual access fee
- a volume charge for each kiloliter of trade waste that has been determined to have been discharged to sewer, charged at a unit rate depending on the relevant category.

The annual access fee

The annual access fee covers the associated cost of administration and compliance management of trade waste approvals.

The level of compliance management is determined by the level of risk the discharge poses to the sewerage system. The higher the risk, the more compliance management is required and the higher the annual access fee.

Annual access fee

Risk rating	Access fee
1	\$1,332
2	\$710
3	\$517
4	\$279
5	\$183
6	\$87

The volume charge

Each trade waste customer is charged on the volume of waste discharged to sewer, which is determined as part of the trade waste application process.

For charging purposes, the volume of trade waste discharged to the sewerage system is measured or estimated using one of the following methods:

- default method (based on water consumption)
- trade waste fixture assessment
- direct metering of the waste discharged
- trade waste water consumption (sub meter)
- other methods as detailed in council's Trade Waste Management Plan.

The two most common methods are detailed on page 2.

For Category 2 customers, the volume rate does not include the cost to council of managing the level of contaminants above the nominal domestic strength. If the business discharges contaminants above domestic strength, then this will be charged separately as contaminant charges. Category 2 businesses are generally of an industrial nature whose activities and discharges are more variable and pose a higher risk.

The trade waste unit rate

The unit rate (\$/KL) is charged according to the individual categories described in the Trade Waste Management Plan. Categories are based on the business type, as shown below. Multiple generators applies where there is more than one business on a property, e.g. a café and carwash in the same complex.

Each category discharges different types of waste. The unit rate is based on the cost to transport and treat the waste applicable to the type of business activity on the permit. For example, restaurant waste usually has high fats and grease.

Trade waste unit rates

Category	Business Activity	Unit rate (\$/KL)
1.1	Food business	\$2.03
1.2	Automotive/engineering	\$1.79
1.3	Laundry/car wash	\$1.66
1.4	Low risk food	\$1.44
1.5	Multiple generators	\$2.03
1.6	No unit rate - access fee only	\$0.00
2	Industrial	\$2.19

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Methods for determining trade waste volume

Default method

The trade waste volume discharged to sewer is estimated from the metered water consumption, using allowances and a discharge factor to account for water consumed on premises, or not discharged as trade waste.

An example of allowances is the 60KL/year that is allowed per pedestal. Allowances are subtracted from the total volume of water consumed by the business.

The discharge factor estimates the proportion of the water consumption that is trade waste related. Industry standard discharge factors are adopted if there are no extenuating circumstances. The trade waste officer will consider all non-trade waste consumption when determining the appropriate discharge factor.

Standard discharge factors

Category	Standard
Category 1.1 – Food	85%
Category 1.2 –Automotive/engineering	95%
Category 1.3 Laundry/carwash/salon	85%
Category 1.4 – Low risk	95%
Category 1.5 – Multiple generators	85-95%
Category 2 – High risk	Individual assessment

Trade waste fixture assessment method

For customers where trade waste volume may be low or difficult to determine, the trade waste volume can be estimated based on the number of trade waste fixtures. Trade waste fixtures are plumbing installations that contribute to trade waste generation, such as sinks, dishwashers, bain-maries or potato peelers. Each fixture has been allocated a rating which identifies the volume of wastewater generated.

Trade waste meter

For more accurate measurement of trade waste volume, the business may install a meter that measures either:

- the volume of water consumed in the trade waste generating activity
- the volume of water to be excluded (e.g. irrigation)
- the actual trade waste volume discharged.

There are certain requirements on the types of meters permitted. Contact the Asset and Hydraulics Unit before installation.

Other charges that may apply

Other types of trade waste charges

Townsville Water may charge other trade waste charges depending on the circumstances. These charges are documented in Townsville Water Fees and Charge Schedule, published on our website.

Application fee

A one-off application fee will be levied on all Category 2 customers to cover the costs of assessment of the trade waste application. This price will depend on the complexity of the application and will be available upon request for quotation.

Sewer loading charge

A sewer loading charge will apply to businesses operating with inadequate or no pre-treatment devices installed, or if the pre-treatment is not being adequately serviced. Contact the Assets and Hydraulics Unit for more information. The sewer loading fee will be levied in addition to the normal trade waste charges.

Additional inspection charges

Where additional inspections and laboratory analyses are required, e.g. due to non-compliance with trade waste approval conditions, or on request by a customer, full costs will be charged to the holder of the trade waste approval.

For more information

More information on trade waste can be found on council's website at townsville.qld.gov.au/water-waste-and-environment/waste-water/trade-waste or contact the Assets and Hydraulics Unit:

Phone: 13 48 10

Email: enquiries@townsville.qld.gov.au

In person: 103 Walker St, Townsville City.