



Vehicle, Truck, Farm Machinery & Equipment Wash Bay Guideline

Federation Council has identified that there are a number of wash bays in its local government area that are non-compliant with trade waste regulations (requirements for discharge to Council's sewerage system). Council's Environmental Health Officer (EHO) has attended all businesses with a wash bay, identified non-compliance with standards and provided preliminary advice and information.

If you have a wash bay that is non-complaint, you will be required to make the necessary changes and install the appropriate treatment equipment to bring the wash bay up to standards. Council understands that there may be a significant cost outlay for businesses to install the necessary treatment equipment and is therefore providing businesses with sufficient notice to factor these costs into their business planning. All businesses will be required to have a compliant wash bay by 1 July 2019.

To assist you in understanding the regulations for wash bays, Council provides the below information.

Options for Disposal of Wastewater	
Stormwater 	<p>Wastewater from wash bays can be contaminated with detergents, oil, grease and petroleum hydrocarbons which are pollutants under the <i>Protection of the Environmental Operations Act (POEO) Act 1997</i>. Section 120 of the Act makes it an offence to discharge pollutants to stormwater and there are significant penalties that apply. Stormwater is not treated and pollution ends up in our rivers, creeks and waterways. Pollution can have a serious impact on plants and animals. Wastewater from <u>new</u> wash bays are not recommended to be discharged to the stormwater drainage system. If your <u>existing</u> wash bay is already connected to stormwater, you will need to ensure that you treat the wastewater to an acceptable level before discharging to stormwater. The water quality will need to meet environmental standards of 5mg/L of oil and grease which can be difficult to achieve without a sophisticated pre-treatment system.</p>
Sewer 	<p>It is important to have a compliant wash bay to protect Council's sewerage infrastructure and reduce maintenance costs. Detergents, oil, grease and petroleum hydrocarbons can inhibit the sewerage treatment process, cause sewerage overflows and fires and explosions if an appropriate pre-treatment system is not installed. Wastewater from wash bays are permitted to discharge to sewer provided the person undertaking the activity or the owner of the property <u>first</u> applies for a Trade Waste Approval from Council (see the last page for more information about Trade Waste Approvals).</p> <p>At a minimum, your wash bay will need to meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Made of a hardstand area; • Roofed to exclude rainwater entering the sewerage system. The roof will need to have a 10 degree overhang from the edge of the bund to effectively exclude rainwater; • Sloped, graded and banded to prevent rainwater running into the hard stand area; • Truck, farm machinery and equipment wash bays will also require a settlement pit upstream from oil/water separator. Settlement pits need to be sized to give 1 hour detention time and must not be smaller than 1,000L;

- Where washing activities generate oil and grease, installation of either a coalescing oil/water separator, vertical gravity separator or hydro cyclone separator will be required to remove the oil and grease. The separator will need to meet the following requirements:
 - Sized according to the expected influent rate
 - Located under a roof or awning
 - Positioned on a concrete slab
 - Bunded to prevent oil leakage or runoff
 - Have a sampling point at the outlet

These requirements may vary depending on your type of operation, vehicles, equipment and washing activities.

Preventing Entry of Stormwater:

Stormwater is prohibited from entering the sewerage system. The ingress of stormwater into the sewerage system can cause operational problems to the system and result in sewer overflows, as the sewerage system does not have the capacity for such flows.

An exemption can be sought if for workplace health and safety reasons you cannot install a roof over your existing wash bay. For example, if placing a roof on the wash bay will prevent trucks and machinery from being safely manoeuvred around the worksite and there is no ability to reconfigure the traffic flow within the site. In these circumstances, the following options may be approved for preventing stormwater entry into the wash bay (and subsequently the sewer):




- Installing a first flush system (Sydney Water Design) in which the first 10mm of rainfall goes to sewer and after that the rest goes to stormwater. A rain gauge system will need to be installed that prevents discharge to sewer 1hr after rain ceases; or
- Covering the wash bay pit with a lid and having a system of spoon drains custom designed by an engineer to prevent entry of stormwater.

You will need to speak with Council's EHO if you believe you meet the requirements for an exemption.

Water Quality Prior to Discharge to Sewer:

Wastewater will need to meet water quality requirements of no more than 100mg/L of oil and grease, 600 mg/L for suspended solids and 30 mg/L for total petroleum hydrocarbons prior to being discharged to sewer. A water quality of 100mg/L of oil and grease can be difficult to achieve without an oil/water separator.

Many businesses currently have a triple interceptor installed. While triple interceptors will drop out solids and will reduce some oil and grease in the wastewater, in some situations they will not treat the wastewater sufficiently to achieve the above water quality requirements. If you believe your triple interceptor is able to meet the above water quality measurements then you can have a sample taken to test the water quality. Contact Council's EHO to arrange this.

<p>Treatment and Reuse</p> 	<p>Some businesses may choose to install a wastewater treatment and recycling system to reuse wastewater onsite (i.e. reuse for washing vehicles). This will also require the installation of an effective treatment system to ensure the quality of water is sufficient for the type of reuse activity. There will need to be the ability to hold treated wastewater onsite ready for reuse. This system may cost more to set up but could potentially save you money in water bills in the long run. If a business is interested in this option, they should speak with Council's EHO to ensure the system you propose to install will meet public health and safety requirements.</p>
<p>Treatment and Onsite Disposal</p> 	<p>For businesses located where there is <i>no Council sewerage infrastructure available</i>, wastewater can be treated onsite and disposed of to land via sub-surface irrigation or ponds. You must obtain an Approval to Install and Approval to Operate an Onsite Wastewater Management System. A pre-treatment system will also be required to ensure the wastewater is of a quality suitable for discharge to land. You will also need to have sufficient land to allow for disposal to land. Speak to Council's EHO for more information.</p>
<p>Collection and Pump Out</p> 	<p>A pump out solution should be considered a last resort. It includes installing a large collection pit or tank to capture all wastewater. The collection pit or tank is then pumped out regularly by a contractor licensed by the NSW EPA. Many people underestimate the amount of wastewater they generate and may not install an undersized holding tank requiring more frequent pump outs than anticipated at a cost to the business. There is also the chance that if not regularly serviced, it may overflow and cause groundwater contamination or runoff into the stormwater drainage system.</p>

No Wash Bay

Council is aware that there are some businesses that are washing vehicles and trucks outside of a wash bay. Washing vehicles and trucks outside a wash bay can cause groundwater contamination and polluted wastewater to runoff into the stormwater drainage system. Council is actively working with these businesses to ensure they install a compliant wash bay where appropriate.

If a business cannot install a wash bay at their current site, then they will be required to wash their vehicles and trucks at a suitable offsite wash bay. Where a business chooses not to comply and they are found to be washing their vehicles and trucks which is causing runoff into stormwater, Council will take compliance action. This will include the issuing of an on-the-spot fine of \$4,000 for an individual or \$8,000 for a company.

Exception

If your business undertakes washing activities infrequently and low volumes of wastewater are generated, then Council may consider granting you an exception from some of the above pre-treatment requirements (such as a compliant wash bay or an oil/water separator).

An exception may be considered for the following circumstances:

- Where a wash bay is installed, the wastewater is not discharged to stormwater.
- Washing activities occur within the property boundary and there is no likelihood of run-off to stormwater or to neighbouring properties.

- The type of vehicles washed are passenger vehicles and utilities only.
- The quantity of vehicles washed is no greater than 5.
- The frequency of washing each vehicle is no greater than once per month.

It is recommended washing activities of this type of type and volume, should occur on a grassed or gravelled areas within your property boundary.

An exception will not be granted in the following circumstances:

- Where the business washes trucks, farm machinery or heavy plant.
- Where vehicles, plant and equipment are particularly muddy or soiled when washed.
- Where vehicles, plant and equipment are used to transport material that have the potential to enter the wash bay and the type of material needs to be treated or removed from the wastewater prior to discharge to sewer.

To seek an exception, contact Council's EHO on 6033 8999. The EHO will conduct an onsite inspection. They may also collect a sample of the wastewater from your wash bay for testing to ensure it meets the requirement of no more than 100mg/L of oil and grease or other water quality requirements.

In some circumstances, it may be more viable for the business to wash vehicles in a car wash facility rather than go to the expense of installing a compliant wash bay. Commercial car wash facilities are required to seek a Liquid Trade Waste Approval from Council and install the necessary pre-treatment prior to discharge to the sewerage system.

A Trade Waste Approval will still be required where an exception has been granted.

Trade Waste Approval

All businesses discharging waste water into Council's sewerage infrastructure require a Trade Waste Approval. This includes any discharges from wash bays connected to sewer. To apply for a Trade Waste Approval, visit Council's website for a copy of the Application Form or submit your application online:
www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Waste/Water-Sewerage/Liquid-Trade-Waste

Failure to hold a Trade Waste Approval if connected to sewer can result in Council taking further compliance action. This may include issuing Orders and/or on-the-spot fines.

Further Information

Contact Council's EHO on 6033 8999. Further information about Trade Waste requirements can also be found at Council's website: www.federationcouncil.nsw.gov.au/Environment-Waste/Water-Sewerage/Liquid-Trade-Waste

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