

8. VETERINARY & ANIMAL CARE WASTE

Preface

Liquid waste generated by industry, small business and commercial enterprises is referred to as trade waste. The Water Supply (Safety & Reliability) Act 2008 prohibits the unauthorised discharge of wastes, other than domestic sewage, into the sewerage system.

1. The definition of trade waste is;
 - *The waterborne waste from business, trade or manufacturing property, other than:*
 - *Waste that is a prohibited substance; or*
 - *Human waste; or*
 - *Stormwater.*
2. The definition of Domestic waste is;
 - *Faecal matter and urine of human origin and liquid household wastes from water closet pans, sinks, baths, basins and similar fixtures designed for use in private dwellings*

Types of premises

- Kennels
- Stables
- Veterinary facilities

Veterinary surgery activities are stand-alone premises where veterinary surgeons attend to animals. It does not include veterinary research facilities.


Pre-treatment requirements

All sinks are to have hair traps. A dry basket arrestor with a fixed screen must be installed for floor wastes that are discharged to the sewerage system in areas where animals are kept or washed. The basket arrestor and hair traps should be cleaned on a regular basis.

If x-rays are conducted on site, a silver recovery unit (SRU) is also required to treat the waste from the Xray process, unless digital. The effluent from an SRU should not contain more than 5mg/L of silver. The supplier of the silver recovery unit should supply a written guarantee of the unit with regard to the requirement of effluent silver limit.

A balancing tank/pit is not required for a veterinary surgery.

If the applicant decides not to install a silver recovery unit (SRU), then the untreated wastewater from the X-ray process must be removed from the premises by an EPA licenced contractor.



Plaster traps must be provided under all sinks liable to be used for the discharge of plaster bearing waste. Plaster traps should be cleaned daily. Homemade settling bowls in sinks before plaster traps can be useful for retaining plaster, but are not sufficient on their own.

Stormwater

The wash area must be roofed to exclude rainwater from the sewerage system. Measures are also required to divert any stormwater away from the wash area(s).

Where the areas are unroofed or partly roofed and it is not possible to roof them, measures will need to be taken to divert stormwater away from these areas. Measures will also be required to minimise the volume of rainwater that falls onto the actual wash areas from entering the sewerage system. Where full roofing is not provided over the wash areas, the application for the discharge of liquid trade waste to the sewerage system must be referred to WRC for approval.

Good housekeeping practices

- Areas where animals are kept should be dry swept before hosing down the floors.
- Animal droppings, litter, etc. shall not be disposed of to the sewerage system.
- Similarly, any waste disposal products, such as disposable bags, shall not be disposed of to the sewer, even if a manufacturer claims that a product is biodegradable.
- Animal waste disposal units are not permitted to be connected to the sewerage system.

Use of disinfectants for sanitation purposes and pesticides for flea control

Note that organochlorine and organophosphate pesticides are substances excluded from the sewerage system. Therefore, wash water arising from the use of such substances must not be discharged to the sewerage system. MSDS for disinfectants and pesticides proposed to use at the premises must be forwarded to WRC trade waste along with the liquid trade waste application form.