

# Helping businesses manage trade waste

Waste Tracking is an initiative of the Gold Coast City Council designed to prevent pollution of our waterways and preserve infrastructure by keeping trade waste out of the city's wastewater system.

Through this program, an environmentally safe and friendly system has been introduced to help businesses effectively dispose of their greasy wastewater.

If your business discharges wastewater, it will need to apply for a trade waste approval from Gold Coast Water.

## Grease Pollution

Wastes like cooking oil, grease and food solids are produced by thousands of food outlets within the Gold Coast every day. If that waste ends up in our rivers, waterways or on our beaches, it can cause major pollution problems. If it is dumped directly into the wastewater system it can block the system, cause overflows and overload the wastewater system.



*Waste Tracking will help conserve our beaches and waterways*

To prevent this from happening, any business that discharges greasy wastewater must have a grease trap installed. This pre-treatment device is used in both commercial and industrial premises to intercept solids and grease.

The cost to install a grease trap depends on its size and how difficult it is to install on the site. The more wastewater your business produces, the larger the trap will need to be.

## How Waste Tracking Works

The Waste Tracking program monitors the removal and disposal of wastewater from grease traps and other devices, thereby reducing the pollutants entering our wastewater system.

If you are a business customer (property owner or tenant) that discharges trade waste to the wastewater system, you will need to obtain an approval from Gold Coast City Council. This approval will automatically include your business in the Waste Tracking program. This means you will be given an approval Certificate and a book of docketts that stipulates how often your grease trap or device needs to be cleaned out. You will need to pass these docketts on to your licensed liquid waste contractor.

Your contractor will bill you directly for the labour involved in cleaning out the grease trap, as well as the cost of transporting, processing and disposing of the waste. This charge is based on cents per litre.

When a licensed contractor empties the grease trap, they hand in one of your bar-coded docketts at a licensed receiving depot. Here the amount of wastewater and the date of disposal are recorded in the Waste Tracking reporting system.

### Tips for saving money

The cost of running and administering the Waste Tracking system is included in your general rates and charges.

You can save on cleaning and maintenance by reducing the amount of waste that goes down your sink. Some examples include:

- Scrape plates and equipment before washing.
- Collect waste cooking oils for recycling.

Ensure that all floor wastebaskets; grates and sink strainers are in place and operating efficiently. This will prevent drains from becoming blocked and unwanted solids entering the grease trap. It will also prevent unwanted odours.



***Sink strainers and floor wastebaskets will prevent unwanted solids from entering the grease trap.***

### Tips for managing Waste Tracking dockets

If, as a Trade Waste Approval holder, you receive dockets for more than one trade waste business, the following suggestions may be helpful:

- Give all the dockets received for the property to your liquid waste contractor. This will enable the contractor to clean the individual traps on the property at the frequency determined by Gold Coast Water and conduct the cleaning operation on your behalf with the minimum of disruption to your business. This is helpful, as the cleaning can be arranged outside your business hours.

- The approval holder may wish to negotiate a price for each individual pump out frequency. If this is the case, then it is important that clear instructions are given to the liquid waste contractor, on where and how the docket for the pump out may be obtained prior to the service.

If you fail to have your grease trap serviced at the required frequency (determined by Gold Coast Water) you may breach your approval conditions. This could lead to increased charges for trade waste, or in serious cases your Approval to discharge trade waste could be revoked.

### Important note

Under the conditions of the Trade Waste Approval, it is the Approval holder that is responsible for cleaning of the grease trap(s). Property owners, tenants or occupiers may hold the Approval.

### More information

Phone: 1300 366 692

Email: [waterinfo@goldcoastwater.com.au](mailto:waterinfo@goldcoastwater.com.au)

Write to: PO BOX 5042  
Gold Coast Mail Centre 9729

Website: [www.goldcoastwater.com.au](http://www.goldcoastwater.com.au)

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