

# Sewer Admission Standards

To manage what is safe to put into the sewer, City of Gold Coast (City) has set Sewer Admission Standards. The Sewer Admission Standards are based on the Water Services Association of Australia's *Australian Sewage Quality Management Guidelines*. Trade waste customers must ensure that the concentration of substances within their sewage discharges is maintained in line with these standards.

Each substance listed in the Sewer Admission Standards has been assessed as posing a potential risk to people, infrastructure, the environment, or the City's business. The City sets concentration limits on these substances to help reduce these risks. As some substances can build up incrementally within the system, both immediate concentration and total daily load limits have been established where required.

All discharged sewage must at all times comply with the Sewer Admission Standards, unless otherwise specified in your trade waste approval. The standards define limits for:

- general substances
- controlled substances
- prohibited substances.

Any substance not listed in the tables below and those listed as a prohibited substance must not be discharged to the sewerage network. The City may request specific demonstrable evidence based on degradability and toxicity for any substance when assessing acceptance for discharge to its sewerage network.

**The Sewer Admission Standards will take effect from 1 July 2015.**

## 1. GENERAL SUBSTANCE LIMITS

General substances are substances that are typical of domestic sewage. Trade waste dischargers must comply with these limits unless an exception is negotiated as part of the trade waste approval process. Controlling the balance of these substances is necessary to ensure sewage treatment plants work effectively.

General substances	Limit (mg/L)
Ammonia (as N)	100
Anionic Surfactants MBAS	500
Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD)	1500
Colour	No colour in sewage treatment plant discharge
Conductivity ms/cm	1.6 ms/cm
Non-ionic surfactants	100
Non-volatile suspended solids	30
Oil and grease	200
Sodium Adsorption Ratio	<10
Suspended solids	600
Temperature	38°C
Total dissolved salts	1000
Total dissolved solids	5000
Total Nitrogen (as N)	150
Total Phosphorus (as P)	20

**Table 8: General substance limits**

## 2. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE LIMITS

Controlled substances are generally not found in domestic sewage and may pose a risk to the community, infrastructure, treatment plants or the environment. Total daily load limits are enforced for some metals. This is because sewage treatment processes generally accumulate metals within the sludge produced at the end of the sewage treatment process. The sludge is used to fertilise agricultural land and high metal concentration may contaminate the soil over a long period.

These substances pose particular risks to the sewerage network. All businesses must comply with these limits.

Controlled substances	Limit (mg/L)
pH	6.5-9.0
<b>Metals</b>	
Aluminium	100
Arsenic (excluding organoarsenic compounds)	0.5
Barium	5
Cadmium	1
Chromium (Total)	3 (to a max of 9 g/day)
Cobalt (Total)	5 (to a max of 15 g/day)
Copper	5 (to a max of 15 g/day)
Iron	10
Lead	1 (to a max of 3 g/day)
Lithium	10
Manganese	10
Mercury	0.01
Molybdenum	5
Nickel	1
Selenium	1
Silver	5
Tin (excludes organotin compounds)	5
Zinc	1
<b>Inorganic compounds</b>	
Boron (as B)	5
Bromine	5
Chlorine	10
Cyanide – weak and dissociable	1
Fluoride	30
Sulfate (as SO <sub>4</sub> )	1000
Sulfite (as SO <sub>2</sub> )	15
Sulfide – dissolved	1 (Australian methods)
<b>Organic compounds</b>	
Formaldehyde (as HCHO)	30
Halogenated aliphatic compounds	1

Petroleum hydrocarbons (total) (non-flammable)	30
Phenolic compounds (non-halogenated)	1
Polybrominated biphenyls	Prohibited
Polychlorinated biphenyls	Prohibited
Polynuclear aromatic hydrocarbons	5
Flammable substances	prohibited
<b>Pesticides</b>	
Organophosphorous pesticides	Prohibited
Organoarsenic compounds	Prohibited
Organotin compounds	0.1
Organochlorine pesticides	Prohibited
Aldrin	Prohibited
Chlordane	Prohibited
DDT	Prohibited
Dieldrin	Prohibited
Heptaclor	Prohibited
Lindane	Prohibited

**Table 9: Controlled substance limits**

### 3. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES

Prohibited substances are substances that are dangerous to people, infrastructure and the environment, as defined in schedule 1 of the *Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008*.

Prohibited substances must never be discharged to sewer. If you are found to be discharging any prohibited substance to sewer, penalties will apply.

<b>Prohibited substances</b>
Flammable/explosive substances
Solid or viscous substances in a quantity, or of a size, that can obstruct the operation of City's sewerage system. Examples include but are not limited to: metal, glass, plastic, rags, ash, cinders, straw, tar, wood, grease and oil.
Radioactive substance except as allowed for under the <i>Queensland Radiation Safety Act 1999</i> and <i>Radiation Safety Regulation 2010</i>
Pathological and infectious waste and cytotoxic waste except as allowed for under the National Industry Code of Practice for the Management of Clinical and Related Wastes
Floodwater, rainwater, roof water, stormwater, subsoil water and surface water
Substances referred to in Schedule 1 of the <i>Water Supply (Safety and Reliability) Act 2008</i>
Genetically engineered organisms require an approval for each substance
Organic compounds and pesticides identified as prohibited in Table 9.

**Table 10: Prohibited substances**