

Severn Trent Water web pages in respect of:

- Trade Effluent
- Applying for a Trade Effluent Consent
- Trade Effluent Notices



Trade effluent

Trade effluent is anything which is not domestic sewage (toilet, bath or handwashing waste) or uncontaminated surface water and roof drainage (rainwater).

Waste water discharges from hotels, pubs, restaurants, takeaways and caravan parks are not classed as trade effluent. They are, however, regulated under Section 111 of the Water Industry Act 1991. Premises found to be discharging fats, oils, greases and food scraps to sewer, which then cause blockages or prove injurious to the safe operation of our assets, can be prosecuted.

The Water Industry Act 1991 defines Trade Effluent as:

"any liquid, either with or without particles of matter in suspension in the liquid, which is wholly or partly produced in the course of any trade or industry carried on at a trade premises."

Any waste water produced in the course of a trade or industry carried out at commercial or business premises is classed as "trade effluent". Trade Effluent will include any waste water derived from a production process or from washing down or cooling activities.

Why do we need to control trade effluent?

Trade effluent can damage our sewers, sewage treatment processes and the watercourses we discharge to. It can also affect the health and safety of anyone working in or around our sewerage network.

We need to ensure that our infrastructure and treatment processes work effectively, so that we can return your treated wastewater safely back into the environment.

Do I need a consent for my trade effluent?

We need to know if you plan to discharge anything other than domestic waste into a drain which is connected to a public sewer. It is your responsibility to obtain consent prior to commencing any trade effluent discharge.

It is a criminal offence under Section 118 (5) of the Water Industry Act to discharge any trade effluent to sewer without the consent of the Sewerage Undertaker (Severn Trent Water Limited). You may be subject to legal action if you discharge without consent.

If your business manufactures or processes materials such as chemicals, metal finishing, food and drink, or if you operate a small launderette or car wash, it is likely that you will need trade effluent consent from Severn Trent Water.

Short term discharges (e.g. contaminated groundwater from land remediation/building projects, flushing of central heating/cooling systems in commercial premises, etc.) are subject to temporary trade effluent authorisation.

Please contact us to discuss any enquiry you have relating to waste water discharging from your premises.

[Email us](#) or call 01332 683369.

If you have a spillage or emergency on site

Take prompt action to prevent or minimize any discharge to your site drains and the sewerage network.

Ensure that you have an incident procedure in place, and that all staff are familiar with it.

Site drainage plans and materials Safety Data sheets should be readily available.

Any material spilled should be prevented from entering drains if at all possible, but if any of it does get into the site drainage system, please ring Severn Trent Water immediately on 0800 783 4444, with details of the substances involved, location of the spillage and likely quantities discharged.



Apply for consent

How to apply for consent

You need to complete an application form, known as a [Trade Effluent Notice](#). To help you there are some [guidance notes](#), and you can also contact us. To submit this form or for advice you can [email us](#), or call us on 01332 683369.

Once we have received your fully completed Trade Effluent Notice, we must either grant or refuse consent within 2 months. Failure to issue consent within this period does not give you 'deemed' consent to discharge.

Unfortunately, in some circumstances, it may not be possible to meet with your requirements, and consent may be refused. We will inform you of the reasons for this refusal.

You should liaise with your local Networks Commercial Advisor if your consent application is refused, or if you think that the conditions imposed in the consent are too stringent, or where we have taken over 2 months to respond.

If any issues cannot be resolved between us, you have the right of appeal to the Director General of Water Services at the Office of Water Services (Ofwat), City Centre Tower, 7 Hill Street, Birmingham B5 4UA.

Note that an application made to discharge 'Special Category' effluent must be referred by Severn Trent Water Limited to the Environment Agency. STWL must await the Environment Agency decision before issuing consent. The 2-month application period is suspended from the date on which the application is referred, and re-commences from the date that the referral is determined.

Special category effluent

The Trade Effluents (Prescribed Process and Substances) regulations 1989, amended 1990, specify a number of processes and substances as 'Special Category'. A list of these can be found in the Trade Effluent Notice.

The Environment Agency will either refuse the 'Special Category' discharge, or serve a Notice of Determination jointly on Severn Trent Water Limited and the customer. This Notice of Determination requires that certain conditions are not exceeded when imposed within the Consent to the discharge of Trade Effluent issued to the customer by Severn Trent Water Limited.

Your trade effluent consent

The consent to discharge trade effluent will be issued in the name of your business, at the address of your trade premises, and only permits discharge of the effluent specified.

Please ensure that you read your consent document carefully, and store it in a safe place, as it is a legal document.

The consent is likely to contain limits for:

- Maximum daily volume
- Maximum rate of discharge
- Maximum and minimum pH
- Suspended solids
- Chemical Oxygen Demand
- Temperature
- Further quality limits specifically based upon the nature and composition of the effluent, as stated in the Trade Effluent Notice
- Any substance likely to produce flammable, harmful or toxic vapours will not be permitted
- Any appropriate condition will be set to ensure that discharges do not cause a nuisance in the sewerage network or at sewage treatment works, interfere with sewage treatment processes, prejudicially affect any watercourse or pose a threat to the health and safety of our employees or the general public.

Method of sampling, measurement of effluent and charging methodology will also be referred to.

It may be necessary for you to install pre-treatment prior to discharging the effluent to sewer, or put in place other risk control measures to mitigate any adverse effects, in order to meet the conditions of your consent.

All of the conditions and limits stated in your consent to discharge are legally binding. Failure to comply with these conditions and limits can result in prosecution.

Trade effluent discharges containing any substance not previously declared on the Trade Effluent Notice are illegal, and therefore liable to prosecution.

You must give us notice, in writing, of the following:

- Any proposed changes to the nature or constituents of the trade effluent
- Any proposed changes to the rate of discharge or daily volume discharged
- A proposed change of ownership of the trade premises
- Any proposed change to the name of the company or partnership

You must also notify us if you cease trading, or no longer wish to discharge trade effluent, so that the necessary amendments can be made and your bills can be corrected. You will be required to return your consent document.

Consents are not transferrable from one company to another.

If you sell the company to a new owner, merge the company with another company, are taken over by another company, or in any way change the legal status of the company from that to which the discharge consent was granted, the new company must apply for a new consent.

Failure to hold a consent in the correct company name renders the trade effluent discharge illegal, and means that your company could be prosecuted.

Discharge would not be illegal if a Certificate of Incorporation was immediately sent to the Commercial Waste Support Team at Severn Trent Water Limited, P.O. Box 51, Raynesway, Derby DE21 7JA.

Public register

We are required to keep a register of trade effluent consents and associated documents, to which the public must be given access. The register is currently held at our offices in Raynesway, Derby DE21 7JA.

Severn Trent Water Limited – Water Industry Act 1991

Trade Effluent Notice

In pursuance of Section 119 of the Water Industry Act 1991 Notice is hereby given of the desire of the undersigned, being the occupier of the trade premises described below, to discharge trade effluent into the public sewers of Severn Trent Water Limited as follows:

IMPORTANT – PLEASE COMPLETE IN FULL

1. Registered Company name _____
Registered address _____

Postcode _____
Contact name _____
2. Registered Company number _____
3. Name of owner of premises (if different from above) _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
Contact name _____
4. Name of occupier of premises (Site) _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
Contact name _____
5. Trade conducted on premises _____
6. Process(es) producing the trade effluent (please also complete the Composition schedule and Process details) _____
7. Location of sewer into which it is desired to discharge trade effluent in pursuance of this notice _____
8. Maximum volume of trade effluent to be discharged in one day _____ cubic metres
9. Maximum rate of flow of trade effluent _____ litres per second
10. Hours of the day between which trade effluent will be discharged into the sewer hours to _____ hours _____
11. If the period of discharge is likely to be less than FIVE years please state _____ years _____ months

If any trade effluent is discharged in contravention of Section 121 of the Act, or without such consent as necessary for the purpose of the Act, the occupier of the premises shall be liable to a fine.

Composition Schedule IMPORTANT – PLEASE COMPLETE IN FULL

Substances present, or likely to be present, in the Trade Effluent or stored on site.

(Please ensure that you tick either the 'yes' or the 'no' box as appropriate for both the 'discharged' and 'stored' columns.

Failure to do so may delay the processing of your application.)

| | Discharged | | Stored | |
|--|------------|----|--------|----|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| 1 Mineral Acids | | | | |
| 2 Alkalis | | | | |
| 3 Metals and their compounds | | | | |
| Iron | | | | |
| Aluminium | | | | |
| Antimony | | | | |
| Arsenic | | | | |
| Beryllium | | | | |
| Chromium | | | | |
| Copper | | | | |
| Lead | | | | |
| Nickel | | | | |
| Selenium | | | | |
| Silver | | | | |
| Tin | | | | |
| Vanadium | | | | |
| Zinc | | | | |
| 4 Cyanides or compounds containing cyanide | | | | |
| 5 Salts including: | | | | |
| Nitriles | | | | |
| Chlorates | | | | |
| Fluorides | | | | |
| Sulphates | | | | |
| Hypochlorites | | | | |
| Nitrates | | | | |
| Nitrites | | | | |
| Perchlorates | | | | |
| Sulphides | | | | |
| Carbides | | | | |
| 6 Phenols, Cresols and simple derivatives | | | | |
| 7 Tar and tar oils | | | | |
| 8 i) Mineral oils | | | | |
| ii) Oil Emulsions | | | | |
| iii) Grease | | | | |
| 9 Ammonia or Ammoniacal compounds | | | | |
| 10 Paint wastes | | | | |
| 11 Pharmaceuticals including Steroids and Hormones | | | | |
| 12 Surface Active Agents | | | | |
| 13 Organosilicon compounds | | | | |

| | Discharged | | Stored | |
|--------------------------------------|------------|----|--------|----|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| 14 Acrylonitrile | | | | |
| 15 Formaldehyde | | | | |
| 16 Carbohydrates | | | | |
| 17 Yeast | | | | |
| 18 Solvents | | | | |
| 19 Thiourea compounds | | | | |
| 20 Methylene Chloride | | | | |
| 21 Dichloromethane | | | | |
| 22 Molybdenum Salts | | | | |
| 23 Dyestuffs | | | | |
| 24 Trichlorethylene | | | | |
| 25 Wood preservatives | | | | |
| 26 Herbicides | | | | |
| Pesticides | | | | |
| Insecticides | | | | |
| Fungicides | | | | |
| Biocides | | | | |
| 27 Phosphates | | | | |
| 28 Prescribed Substances | | | | |
| Mercury and its compounds | | | | |
| Cadmium and its compounds | | | | |
| All isomers of Hexachlorocyclohexane | | | | |
| All isomers of DDT | | | | |
| Pentachlorophenol and its compounds | | | | |
| Hexachlorobenzene | | | | |
| Hexachlorobutadiene | | | | |
| Aldrin | | | | |
| Dieldrin | | | | |
| Endrin | | | | |
| Polychlorinated Biphenyls | | | | |
| Dichlovos | | | | |
| 1, 2 - Dichloroethane | | | | |
| All isomers of Trichlorobenzene | | | | |
| Atrazine | | | | |
| Simazine | | | | |
| Tributyltin compounds | | | | |
| Triphenyltin compounds | | | | |
| Trifluralin | | | | |
| Fenitrothion | | | | |
| Azinphos - methyl | | | | |
| Malathion | | | | |
| Endosulfan | | | | |

Substances not included in the Prescribed Substances Regulations

| | Discharged | | Stored | |
|--|------------|----|--------|----|
| | Yes | No | Yes | No |
| 29 Organohalogen compounds | | | | |
| 30 Organophosphorus compounds | | | | |
| 31 Organosulphur compounds containing nitrogen | | | | |
| 32 Perfluorooctane Sulphonate (PFOS) and substances that degrade to PFOS | | | | |
| 33 Any other substance known to be toxic or hazardous | | | | |

Processes carried out on site (Please tick where applicable)

| | |
|--|--|
| Drink manufacture | |
| Food processing | |
| Boiler house effluents | |
| Cooling water | |
| Scrubbing water | |
| Paint stripping | |
| Solvent recovery | |
| Metal finishing | |
| Oil interception | |
| Chemical cleaning | |
| Solvent cleaning | |
| Vapour phase degreasing | |
| Dyeing | |
| Moth proofing | |
| Wood preserving | |
| Shot blasting | |
| Chemical mixing | |
| Settlement | |
| Other- specify | |
| Process flow diagram (where appropriate) - see reverse | |

Signature of party authorised to serve this Notice

Signature _____ Print name _____

Designation _____ Telephone number _____

Fax _____ Email _____

12. Date of signature _____

Once completed ONE copy of this notice should be served on Severn Trent Water Limited at the address given below, together with the following items:

Customer check list (please tick boxes when enclosed)

Fully completed Trade Effluent Notice ☐ Suitable A4 block plan ☐ Photocopy of recent water invoice ☐

Please retain the SECOND copy of the notice for your records.

The address for service of, or any query about, this Notice is:
 Severn Trent Water Limited, Commercial Waste Department, PO Box 51, Raynesway, Derby DE21 7JA

Process flow diagram

WM 2008/005.JP

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