



Welcome to Maranoa Regional Council's September Food Safety Newsletter, helping to keep you up to date on current food matters. This month we are providing information about commercial waste, trade waste, and maintaining your grease traps.

Food businesses can produce waste including **cooking oil, grease, fats and food solids**.

These businesses include:

- commercial kitchens
- function centres
- restaurants
- fast food outlets
- supermarkets
- butchers
- bakeries
- cafes
- takeaway stores
- care centres.

Installing a grease trap will prevent grease from entering the sewer system.

Maintaining your grease trap

Grease traps become less effective as grease, oil and sludge accumulate in them. Grease traps require regular cleaning to prevent blockages, odour problems and health hazards.

What is commercial waste?

Food preparation and cooking, including the cleaning of areas in which these tasks are performed, generates commercial trade waste which is discharged into the sewerage system. Commercial waste can cause sewer blockages if not managed properly.









What is trade waste?

Trade waste is waterborne waste generated from businesses, trade or manufacturing premises which may also be accepted into the sewerage system for an additional charge and in particular circumstances.

Normal domestic sewage consists mainly of water which, after treatment to reduce biodegradable material, suspended solids and nutrients, will be reused or discharged in accordance with the Environmental Authority issued to Council by the State government. However, trade waste may have an organic strength many times that of domestic sewage and may overload the treatment facility.

Trade waste may contain a variety of exotic substances such as heavy metals, organic solvents and chlorinated organics which sewage treatment plants are not designed to treat and which may have an adverse impact on Council's reuse schemes.

Trade waste substances may:

-  Cause sewerage system blockages
-  Pose a serious risk to the safety and health of sewerage workers
-  Damage and corrode the sewerage system
-  Inhibit the biological treatment process
-  Cause odours
-  Accumulate in sludges
-  Pass through the plant untreated resulting in environmental contamination
-  Render treated wastewater and biosolids unusable.

Council may consider the acceptance of trade waste containing toxic or hazardous substances and non-degradable pollutants to the sewerage system only after the waste has been pre-treated on site to ensure Sewer Admission Limits are not exceeded.

Further information is included in Council's Trade Waste Policy which is available online:

<http://www.maranoa.qld.gov.au/council/policies>.

The policy outlines where a waste is deemed to be unsuitable for discharge to the sewerage system and where an approval will not be issued - i.e. alternative arrangements for trade waste disposal will have to be made.

If this type of waste is disposed of incorrectly, it can cause damage to the environment, cause blockages and sewer overflows.