

## **Trade Waste: Permanent disconnection of treatment apparatus**

This fact sheet is for property owners that have a treatment apparatus (usually a grease trap or trace oil inceptor) that they want to permanently disconnect from the sewer.

Property owners who have a treatment apparatus that is not in use have two options:

- a) If they want to keep it available for future tenants, they must arrange a Trade Waste Consent with Greater Western Water.
- b) Alternatively, if they don't want to use the treatment apparatus in the future, they must permanently disconnect it from the sewer.

### **Why do I need to permanently disconnect the treatment apparatus?**

Any treatment apparatus connected to Greater Western Water's sewerage system poses a potential risk to people, treatment systems and Greater Western Water's assets.

If you want to keep an unused treatment apparatus connected to the sewer you must hold a Trade Waste Owner's Consent with us.

If you don't want to use the treatment apparatus in the future, or have it available for future tenants, you're required to permanently disconnect the treatment apparatus from the sewer.

### **Is a permanent disconnection reversible?**

No, a proper permanent disconnection should not be reversible so owners should carefully consider whether future tenants of the property may require the treatment apparatus. This will avoid costs associated with the reinstallation in the future.

Temporary disconnection (eg. Capping) of the sewer doesn't satisfy Greater Western Water's requirements of a permanent disconnection and you will still be required to hold a Trade Waste Consent.

### **What does permanent disconnection involve?**

Permanent disconnection of a treatment apparatus involves decommissioning of the apparatus and the permanent disconnection of a sewer line from the sewer system as carried out by a licensed plumber (sometimes referred to as a cut and seal).

### **Who is allowed to perform the permanent disconnection?**

Only a licensed plumber can disconnect a sewer line. The decommissioning of the treatment apparatus may also require the involvement of an EPA licensed waste disposal contractor.

### **How do I notify City West Water the treatment apparatus has been disconnected?**

When the treatment apparatus has been disconnected, you must notify us via email at [tradewaste@gww.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@gww.com.au) or by mail to Trade Waste, Greater Western Water, Locked Bag 350, Sunshine 3020.

Whether via email or post, please include a copy of:

- The Compliance Certificate issued by the Victorian Building Authority to your licensed plumber, detailing the works completed
- Pump-out documentation from your licensed waste disposal contractor.

### **Steps for permanent disconnection.**

Following these steps for permanently disconnecting from the sewer.

#### **Step 1:**

Obtain a Plumbing industry Commission (PIC) Consent Number to perform a cut and seal. This number will allow the plumber to book an inspection of the works with the Victorian Building Authority (formerly known as the Plumbing Industry Commission).

The property owner must obtain Greater Western Water's consent before undertaking any plumbing works. The property owner or plumber can apply for permission by completing a [Commercial/multi-unit plumbing application form](#).

An application fee applies.

#### **Step 2:**

Disconnection of the sewer line involved the permanent cutting and sealing of the pipework serving the outlet of the treatment apparatus.

#### **Step 3:**

Decommission the treatment apparatus by arranging for a pump out of all contents (liquid and sludge) of the treatment apparatus by an EPA licensed waste disposal contractor.

- For above-ground apparatus:
  - Remove the treatment apparatus from site
- For below-ground treatment apparatus:
  - Backfill with crushed rock, remove lids permanently (see image 1):



Image 1.

Then, return the surface of the surrounds, for example, by concreting the surface (see image 2):



Image 2.

- Disused internal plumbing fixtures:
  - If the disused internal plumbing fixtures remain in place, such as sinks and floor drains, the drainage pipework must be sealed at floor level and the water supply outlets capped where appropriate.

For more information email [tradewaste@gww.com.au](mailto:tradewaste@gww.com.au) or call **13 44 99**.