



MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT WASH DOWN BAYS

Introduction

Waste water produced from wash down bays typically contains detergents, degreasers and oily residues. This waste water is generally high in nutrients and hydrocarbons, and can pose a significant threat to the environment if it is discharged into the ground without being treated.

Any business proposing to wash vehicles or equipment within a wash down bay and discharge the waste water on site (ie where sewer is not available) is required to apply to the City of Bunbury Environmental Health Services. For applications where the daily waste water volume exceeds 540 litres, the application is required to be approved by the Department of Health WA.

How do I apply?

Septic application forms are available from the City's website at <https://www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/live/handbook/environmental-health-services/environmental-health-forms-and-licenses>, by contacting us at T 08 9792 7100 or in person at the City's administration office at 4 Stephen Street, Bunbury.

Application forms must be completed in full and submitted to the City with all the required information and fees. Applications for systems producing greater than 540 litres per day of waste water will be referred by the City to the Department of Health WA for approval.

How much does the application cost?

Please refer to the application form for the Department of Health WA fees. For City fees please see the City website www.bunbury.wa.gov.au/live/your-council/fees-and-charges.

Do I need any other approvals?

A development application may be required. Please contact the City's Planning Services on T 08 9792 7121 for further information.

How long does it take for my application to be processed?

The application form must be completed in full and submitted along with all of the required information and fees. Failure to do this will delay the assessment of your application. Please allow a minimum of ten (10) working days for processing of your application if all correct documentation has been provided for City-approved applications. For applications requiring approval by the Department of Health WA, please contact the Department on T 08 9388 4999 for further information regarding processing timeframes.



What information needs to be included with my application?

- A scaled site plan showing existing and proposed facilities on the lot
- Detailed drawings of the wash down bay and associated infrastructure
- Specifications and schematic diagram of the waste water treatment and disposal system being installed
- Location of industrial waste sample point (to be located post-treatment and prior to disposal)
- Description of the types of chemicals being used (eg degreasers, detergents, solvents and the like)
- Daily volume of waste water being generated from the wash down bay
- Details of use of the wash down bay ie type and frequency of machinery/vehicles being washed down
- Documentation demonstrating that waste water can be treated to the following parameters:
 - Hydrocarbons < 15mg/litre
 - pH 5.5 – 8.5
 - Salinity (measured as electrical conductivity) < 1800 micro Siemens/cm
 - Surfactants (detergents) < 5mg/litre
 - Benzene, toluene, ethyl benzene and xylene < 10 micrograms/litre (cumulative maximum)
 - All other toxic soluble contaminants should not exceed ten times the guideline criteria or investigation trigger for local water values as published in the *Australian and New Zealand Guidelines for Fresh and Marine Water Quality 2000*
- If the wash down bay is not roofed, documentation demonstrating that the system can cope with a 1 in 10 year storm event shall be provided.

Design and operation requirements for wash down bays:

- Wash down bay pad shall have a minimum raised perimeter bund of 75mm high, including entry and exit points
- Wash down bay shall be roofed or documentation demonstrating that the system can cope with a 1 in 10 year storm event shall be provided
- No waste water from the wash down bay shall enter stormwater drainage
- Quick break type detergent or degreaser products only shall be used
- Wash down pad shall be graded to a collector gully
- Water collected from the wash down pad shall initially drain from the collector gully via a pipe or culvert to a sediment trap, to settle and allow removal of soil and other heavy contaminants. The trap shall be of sufficient size to provide a minimum water detention capacity of one hour under peak flow conditions, for effective gravity settling of solids
- Approved oil/water separators include vertical gravity separators (VGS), coalescing plate separator (CPS) and hydro cyclone units. NB triple interceptors are not approved as the primary oil/water separation device for wash down bays
- Treated waste water shall be disposed of via leach drains/soak wells or to temporary holding tanks



- Holding tanks are required to have backup systems such as floating cut-off switches, alarms, or overflow tanks installed in case of pump failures or holding tank overflows
- Leach drains/soak wells shall be set back a minimum of 1.8 metres from buildings, boundaries and other leach drains/soak wells. There shall be a minimum clearance of 1.2m from the underside of drainage to the highest known ground water table
- The site operator shall sample, at their cost and at least annually, the quality of the waste water being discharged on site for compliance with the parameters detailed above. Samples shall be analysed by a NATA accredited laboratory and the results kept on site for a minimum of 3 years. Sample results shall be made available to City staff on request
- Maintenance arrangements in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations shall be implemented for any apparatus connected to the wash down bay
- Maintenance inspections of the waste water treatment and disposal system shall be carried out at least weekly

Additional Information

Applicants should be aware of the following:

- Construction/installation of the wash down bay shall not commence until approval has been granted by the City or the Department of Health WA.
- A final inspection of the wash down bay is required to be carried out by Environmental Health Services prior to use.

Should you have any further queries regarding wash down bay applications, please contact the City's Environmental Health Services on 9792 7100.

Disclaimer

This information sheet is provided as generalised information. Whilst we aim to keep the content of this document current and accurate, we accept no responsibility or warranties for actions based on the information provided. The City encourages you to seek professional advice before acting on any information contained within this document.