

REGULATING NONDOMESTIC DISCHARGES



Industrial Pretreatment

Unlike water from your toilet or kitchen sink, wastewater from certain types of industrial facilities has to be pretreated to remove particular pollutants before they go into a wastewater treatment facility.

Clean Water Services and local industries need to know what pollutants are present and what pretreatment is needed to protect public health, infrastructure and treatment facilities. Effective treatment prevents these pollutants from going into local rivers and streams.

Permits

There are many industries in Washington County, including high tech, chemical manufacturing, brewing and other fermented beverage production, food processing, laboratories, dentists and auto shops. A permit may be required for some users to discharge materials into the wastewater system, depending on each unique situation.

Clean Water Services screens significant industrial users and other users that discharge pollutants to determine if a permit is necessary. The permit considers the type of discharge and establishes treatment, monitoring and reporting requirements for each situation. The regulation and permitting process is based on federal and state rules. Clean Water Services currently permits 195 active industries with different types of wastewater discharge permits. This is just one of the different types of permits that Clean Water Services issues.



Domestic and Nondomestic Waste

An industrial discharge permit is not necessary to discharge domestic wastewater such as toilet and sink water from a home, shower water at a hotel or dishwater from an office lunchroom. Nondomestic wastewater, due to its volume or character, is not regular sewage. Nondomestic wastewater can contain substances like industrial chemicals, pesticides, rags, paints, and excessive oil and grease. A permit and pretreatment may be required before this type of wastewater goes into the sanitary system.

For nondomestic wastewater, Clean Water Services will determine which facilities need a permit, based on federal rules and potential impacts to the system.



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New Ordinance

Clean Water Services has created a new ordinance, which combines elements of existing older rules, to update and clarify requirements relating to domestic and nondomestic wastewater. The ordinance is focused on the type of wastewater being discharged rather than the type of facility where wastewater originates. The ordinance includes newer federal streamlining rules and encompasses additional types and sources of wastewater that may flow into the sanitary system that were not explicitly described by the older rules. It's aligned with federal and state regulatory standards, as well as national pretreatment program standards.

The new ordinance does not regulate stormwater which is outside of the sanitary collection system, sources or activities related to erosion, or domestic wastewater from any type of facility. The ordinance does regulate wastewater from industrial facilities and other nondomestic sources to protect public health and infrastructure.

The ordinance defines domestic waste differently than the previous ordinance to focus on regulating discharges that are problematic. It includes new regulation of certain discharges, specifically dental discharges, to keep up with current regulation. It requires documenting equipment maintenance to demonstrate effective performance for industries such as those working with fats, oils and greases and offers increased opportunities for users to bring hauled wastes to Clean Water Services. The new ordinance is designed to increase transparency, reduce inconsistencies and improve clarity by organizing the pretreatment rules into a single ordinance rather than distributed between ordinances and rules. These changes make the ordinance more efficient and effective.

The new ordinance provides tools to ensure continued protection of our community, workers, environment and infrastructure. It also more clearly provides for aspects of the local program that allows Clean Water Services to provide protection beyond what the federally required system covers.



Who's affected?

Industries that currently have industrial wastewater discharge permits with Clean Water Services will experience no real operational changes, but will see minor changes in their permit language to reflect the new ordinance. Some industries may qualify for a new type of control mechanism under the new ordinance. This will take advantage of federal streamlining rules to protect the environment and reduce the burden on business operations.



Everything we do at Clean Water Services aims to protect public health while enhancing the natural environment of the Tualatin River Watershed.

Clean Water Services

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