



SPECIAL DISCHARGE REQUEST FAQs

For short-term discharge requests

The Special Discharge Program of the Metropolitan Council provides a method for acceptance of “special discharges” to the Metropolitan Disposal System. Special discharges regulated under this program include contaminated groundwater, contaminated surface water, hauled industrial waste, and nonhazardous landfill leachate and condensate.

This document provides answers to frequently asked questions (FAQs) for short-term discharge requests - discharges occurring for 12 months or fewer.

Frequently asked questions

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Answers

[Q1: What wastes are not accepted by the Met Council?](#)

A1: The more commonly requested waste types listed below are not typically accepted because the Met Council’s water resource recovery facilities (WRRFs) cannot remove or treat for these pollutants or, preferable disposal options are available.

For a full list of prohibited wastes, please refer to Section 406.00 of the [Waste Discharge Rules](#).

Waste Type	Accepted by Met Council?	Alternative Disposal/Referral Options
AFFF (aqueous film-forming foam) Class B firefighting	No	Contact a hazardous waste disposal service.
Chlorinated pool water	No	Allow chlorine to dissipate for three to four days and discharge to a vegetative surface (e.g. lawn). Refer to MPCA’s best management practices for swimming pool and hot tub water discharges
Dyes, paints, printing inks	Maybe	Not accepted if the colorants are likely to cause excessive discoloration in our treatment facility effluent.

Food wastes	No	Refer to MnTAP's guidance for handling food processing by-products
Glycol (larger volume)	No	Contact an antifreeze/glycol recycling service.
Hazardous wastes (larger volume)	No	Contact a hazardous waste disposal service.
Hydrostatic testing water	Maybe	Not accepted if pipe was formerly used for crude oil or petroleum products.
PFAS-impacted wastewater	Maybe	Requests to discharge PFAS-impacted wastewater will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.
Pure product (larger volume)	No	Consider reuse options or return product to supplier, if possible.
Salty discharges	No	Not accepted because salt cannot feasibly be removed from water.

Q2: What wastes are accepted by the Met Council?

A2: The more commonly requested waste types listed below may be accepted if applicable limits and certain criteria are met.

No discharge is allowed without a written discharge approval from the Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention section of the Met Council.

No hauler can discharge to Met Council's disposal facilities without a Liquid Waste Hauler Permit.

[How to obtain a permit](#) [Permitted hauler listing](#)

Waste Type	Accepted by Met Council?	Acceptance Considerations
Biosolids	Yes	Must meet Met Council's local pretreatment standards. PFAS testing may be required.
Chlorine-impacted municipal wastewater	Yes	Wastewater resulting from municipalities bringing a new water treatment facility online. Dechlorination may be required.
Contaminated groundwater from dewatering	Yes	Must meet Met Council's local pretreatment standards and other applicable limitations.
Glycol (small volume)	Yes	Less than 600 gallons per year of 100% glycol may be accepted.
Hazardous wastes (small volume)	Maybe	Less than one gallon of hazardous waste may be accepted depending on the waste type.
Hydrostatic testing water	Maybe	May be accepted if pipe was <u>not</u> formerly used for crude oil or petroleum products.

Industrial waste - from a generation source <u>within</u> the Met Council service area	Yes	Must meet Met Council's local pretreatment standards and any applicable federal pretreatment standards. Analytical data will be required. Industrial waste is defined as any solid, liquid, or gaseous waste, excluding domestic waste, resulting from any industrial, manufacturing, commercial, institutional or business activity, or from the development, recovery, or processing of a natural resource.
Industrial waste - hauled from a generation source <u>outside</u> the Met Council service area (OSA)	Maybe	Must meet Met Council's local pretreatment standards and any applicable federal pretreatment standards. Analytical data will be required. Acceptance will be determined on a case-by-case basis including the allowed duration. Metropolitan Disposal System and Service Area map
Non-industrial waste hauled from a generation source <u>outside</u> of Met Council service area (OSA)	Maybe	Must meet the Met Council's local pretreatment standards. OSA commercial waste from vehicle maintenance sumps such as flammable waste traps and car wash sand traps may be accepted. All floating oil and excess solids must be removed prior to discharge. Analytical data will be required. OSA commercial waste from restaurant grease traps and commercial or residential domestic wastes do not need special discharge approval. These wastes are accepted through our Liquid Waste Hauler program . Waste types and descriptions Metropolitan Disposal System and Service Area map
Landfill leachate and condensate	Maybe	Acceptance will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
Pure product (small volume)	Maybe	May be accepted if reuse or a supplier return is not possible and if it meets Met Council's local pretreatment standards.

Q3: How much does it cost?

A3: An administrative (cost-recovery) fee is charged for all short-term special discharge requests. Short-term means occurring for 12 months or fewer. The waste may also be subject to applicable charges to recover our treatment costs.

Administrative fees

- \$150 for discharge over 500 gallons that are generated within the Met Council's seven-county service area. This fee is typically invoiced when the approval letter is issued.
- \$300 for discharges of any volume generated outside the Met Council's seven-county service area. This is a non-refundable fee required to be paid with the request, so it is best to call our office before submitting the request.

Treatment cost-recovery charges

Connected discharges

- Strength charges are assessed based on volume and concentration levels of chemical oxygen demand (COD) and/or total suspended solids (TSS) to recover costs for treating the wastes.
- Capacity charges will be assessed if a permit is issued for contaminated groundwater or surface water that is discharged on-site via a sanitary sewer connection for the temporary demand on the Metropolitan Disposal System. Capacity charges are not assessed for short-term approvals discharged via a sanitary sewer connection or for waste hauled to a Met Council liquid waste receiving facility.

Hauled discharges

- Load charges for waste hauled to Met Council facilities are assessed based on the waste type and have a combined strength, facilities and volume component with an added fee for waste generated outside the service area. The volume component is based on the Met Council's municipal wastewater rate that connected users pay through their communities.

See [Industrial Waste rates and fees website](#) for more information and current rates.

Q4: Do I need to have the wastewater analyzed?

A4: All wastewater considered industrial waste or out-of-service area flammable and sand trap waste must be sampled and analyzed. The required analyses will depend on the nature of the waste and how it was generated. Waste with a potential to contain contaminants of concern for our water resource recovery facilities may also require analytical data.

If you have analytical data available for the wastewater, include it with your discharge request.

Before collecting any new analytical data, you should contact the Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention office and speak with one of our permit staff to confirm what data are needed.

Industrial Waste is defined as any solid, liquid, or gaseous waste, excluding domestic waste, resulting from any industrial, manufacturing, commercial, institutional or business activity, or from the development, recovery, or processing of a natural resource.

Q5: What do I need to complete and submit?

A5: The required submittals depend on the type of wastewater you are requesting to discharge.

- For **contaminated groundwater and surface water**, you will need to complete and submit:
 - [Groundwater and/or Surface Water – Special Discharge Application](#)
 - [Community Review Form](#) if the groundwater or surface water is being directly discharged to the sanitary sewer and the rate of discharge is greater than 10 gallons per minute and/or the total volume is greater than 10,000 gallons.
- For **industrial waste**, you will need to complete and submit:
 - [Industrial Discharge Approval Request Form](#)

Supplemental Attachments - Regardless of the type of wastewater you are requesting to discharge, you may also need to complete and submit the following supplemental forms:

- For waste from **outside of the Met Council's seven-county service area** ([service area map](#))
 - [Out-of-Service Area Attachment form](#)
- For **PFAS-impacted waste**
 - [PFAS Attachment form](#)

Q6: What limits/conditions must be met?

A6: Limits and conditions of discharge are listed in Article IV of our [Waste Discharge Rules](#).

All discharges must meet the Met Council's Local Pretreatment Standards for metals and cyanide listed in Section 401.00 of the Waste Discharge Rules. The pH of the discharge must be at or above 5.0 standard units and at or below 11.0 standard units.

Pretreatment standards for organic contaminants vary based on the specific Metropolitan Council water resource recovery facility to which the wastewater is discharged. Contact the Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention office and speak to a permit staff member for more details.

Additional conditions specific to the Approval may apply.

For a list of prohibited wastes, please refer to Section 406.00 of the [Waste Discharge Rules](#).

Q7: Whom do I contact with additional questions?

A7: Please contact the Met Council's Industrial Waste and Pollution Prevention (IWPP) office:

- 651-602-4703
- IWPP@metc.state.mn.us