

# Southern Water – Regulatory Position Statement

## Wheelie bin washing at Domestic premises

### Background

Trade Effluent discharges require a 'Consent to Discharge' from the appointed sewerage undertaker under the Water Industry Act (WIA) 1991.

However, there are certain Trade Effluent (non-domestic) discharges which Southern Water considers are more appropriately and efficiently controlled outside of the formal consenting process.

Companies which undertake wheelie bin washing as part of their trade and seek to dispose of this wastewater to the public foul sewer, may require a trade effluent consent. However Southern Water considers this effluent if carried out only at domestic premises and following the conditions below, a low-risk activity which can be controlled without the need of a formal consent.

### Our Approach

It is the responsibility of the relevant company / organisation carrying out the discharge activity to ensure that the **discharge conditions** below are complied with at all times. In addition, all relevant legislative requirements pursuant to the WIA 1991 Act must be adhered to.

If in any doubt about the information contained in this statement and its applicability to the proposed discharge, the relevant company / organisation shall contact their Retailer and ascertain whether a Trade Effluent Consent is required, prior to commencing any discharge to the public foul sewer.

### Cleaning of wheelie bin and disposal of wastewater

If you are cleaning wheelie bins at a domestic property, either a customer's or at your own domestic property as part of your trade activity and discharge the wastewater to the foul sewer, there is no need for you to apply for a trade effluent consent. Instead, the following discharge conditions should be met:

#### 1. Trade Effluent

The Trade Effluent shall consist only of:

Wastewater from wheelie bin washing at a domestic premises.

#### 2. Sewer Affected

The wastewater shall discharge to the public **foul** sewer. The discharge must not be made to the surface water system as this discharges directly to the environment.

### **3. Maximum Rate of Discharge**

The maximum rate at which The Trade Effluent may be discharged shall not exceed 1 litre/sec. The flow is such that it does not surcharge local sewers and cause flooding.

### **4. Maximum Volume of Discharge**

The maximum quantity of The Trade Effluent discharged at any period of twenty-four hours shall not exceed 2 m<sup>3</sup>.

### **5. Limits on Effluent Composition**

The following Trade Effluent Constituents shall not exceed the stated concentration:

- I. The discharge must not contain gross solids which is likely to block the sewerage system.
- II. The effluent must not contain materials that may be retained by a screen having perforations of 6 mm in diameter.
- III. The pH of the effluent must not be less than pH 6 or greater than pH 10.
- IV. The effluent must not contain any substances that are toxic, flammable or harmful to biological treatment.

Additionally, Section 111 of the WIA 1991 Act makes it an offence to discharge anything to the public sewer which is likely to adversely impact on such sewer, the free flow of its content, the water recycling centre and any treatment processes, the health and safety of the public and our personnel and the environment.

### **Wheelie bin washing discharged at a non-household premise**

If you transport the wastewater back to one trading (non-domestic) premise to discharge into the foul sewer then a formal consent is needed, and an application must be submitted via your retailer.

### **Enforcement**

In not pursuing an application for a Trade Effluent Consent, Southern Water expects full compliance with relevant legislative requirements and will use its enforcement powers where necessary to ensure that those who fail to comply are held to account. Where a criminal offence has been committed Southern Water will consider a number of enforcement options including issuing a warning, administering a caution and prosecution. Southern Water reserves the right to recover any cost incurred following a breach.

### **What we expect from you**

If you are in any doubt about the information contained in this document and its applicability to your discharge or you have any further queries you must talk to your Retailer. You must also tell them of any changes, such as an alteration to the volume of effluent you produce or the nature and composition of your discharge.