

Tattoo Shops



Existing and proposed tattoo shops that are (or will be) connected to the Pierce County Sewer System are required to provide Supplemental Information along with the Minor Industrial User Pretreatment Review application.

The bulletin is intended to assist the applicant in preparing the necessary documents to be provided with a complete Pretreatment Review Application. This document is a guide only and should not be misconstrued as a replacement or revision of the Pierce County Code and associated Sewer Utility design and construction standards.

What supplemental information do I have to provide when submitting my Pretreatment Review Application?

Provide written documentation on the following items:

1. Inks.
 - a. Any user or the sewer system shall not discharge water or a waste that imparts color which cannot be removed by the treatment process as per Section 13.06.050 of the County's Pretreatment Ordinance No. 99-26 as amended from time to time. The discharge of tattoo ink is not permitted. Confirm in writing that this will be complied with.
2. Sterilization Equipment. Provide to this office information on how tools/equipment are sterilized, including MSDS sheets. ***Glutaraldehyde solutions may not be diluted to less than 1% for disposal to the sewer. Persons using glutaraldehyde in concentrations greater than 1% must employ one or more of the following Best Management Practices.***
 - a. Have waste glutaraldehyde picked up by a hazardous waste management firm. Maintain records on site showing the dates and volumes and name of the contractor picking up the waste.
 - b. Neutralize waste glutaraldehyde with a commercially available process following the manufacturer's directions. Maintain records on site showing the date and volumes neutralized and discharged and the person performing the treatment.
 - c. Hold activated glutaraldehyde for a minimum of 14 days before discharging it to the sewer. Maintain records on site showing the storage period, the dates and volumes discharged and the person performing the discharge.
3. Will there be a washing machine on-site?
 - a. If yes, submit two (2) sets of lint trap drawings to the Sewer Utility for review. Please note the lint trap is to be a wall mounted or floor type trap – a sock type is not acceptable. See Bulletin #6 Traps for a list of pre-approved lint traps.

Where can I get the forms that I need?

Sewer Utility Division Standard Plans and Forms can be downloaded in PDF format from the following webpage: www.piercecountywa.org/sewer

Completed applications and fees (make checks out to Pierce County) must be delivered in person to:

Pierce County Sewer Utility – Permits
2401 South 35th Street, Room 150
Tacoma, WA 98409-7494

Or mailed to:

Pierce County Sewer Utility – Engineering
9850 - 64th Street West
University Place, WA 98467-1078

If you have any questions, please contact either:

A Sewer Utility Permit Technician at (253) 798-2737, or
A Sewer Utility Engineer at (253) 798-4050