

This Technical Note has been issued to alert the plumbing industry and stakeholders to acceptable methods for the termination of waste water drains from evaporative airconditioners.

Construction industry operatives, especially the ones in the airconditioning/mechanical services area are reminded that under the definition of water supply and sanitary plumbing work in the Water Services Licensing (Plumbers Licensing and Plumbing Standards) Regulations 2000. The water supply pipework up to the evaporative airconditioning unit and the pipework draining the unit is plumbing work. This work shall be carried out by a suitably qualified person licensed by the Plumbers Licensing Board.



Typical evaporative airconditioner

To help control microbial contamination and reduce the effects of water impurities, salts or total dissolved solids, evaporative airconditioners discharge an amount of water to waste.

For safe control of this waste water to an approved point of discharge the following applies:

The configuration of the water reservoir and water supply effectively places regulation of these airconditioners under storage tanks in AS/NZS3500.1:2003 Clause 8.2.1(d). Therefore the waste shall be controlled as per the overflow requirements under Clause 8.4.4 Tank Overflow.

Discharge of overflow

Evaporative airconditioners do not have a safe tray. Also the volume of discharge from an evaporative airconditioner is not suitable for discharge inside a building. Therefore, only the requirements of Clauses 8.4.4.1(a) and 8.4.4.2(d) apply as follows:

- ▶ Overflow from tanks shall be not smaller than DN40 (refer to Clause 8.4.4.1(a)).
- ▶ In order not to cause damage or nuisance, the tank overflow shall discharge where it is readily visible outside the building, clear of doors, windows or other opening, and within the property boundaries (refer to Clause 8.4.4.2(d)).

There is no maximum length of these wastes although they shall fall continuously in the direction of flow.

Due to the corrosive nature of the waste water it shall not discharge onto roofs or into gutters and downpipes. Licensed plumbing contractors are reminded that readily visible means the termination of the overflow should be at or near finished surface level.

As a guide any tundish exceeding 1.8 m vertically from finished surface level would **not** be considered readily visible.

Some examples of acceptable methods of termination are show below:

- ▶ To ground level with a visible gap provided the surface is graded away from the building, ponding does not occur, and the discharge does not present a safety risk to pedestrians for example draining across a footpath (see Diagram 1).

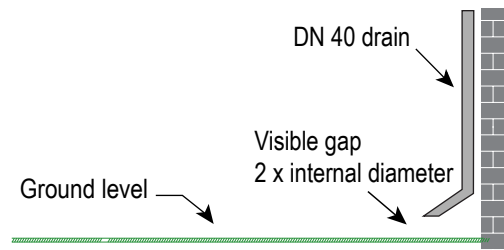


Diagram 1 — Discharge at ground level

