

Water Pollution Stormwater

Water is a scarce and essential natural resource. Conserving and maintaining water quality is especially important in Australia. Preventing or reducing water pollution protects our water quality and is essential to maintaining the health of our environment and our own quality of life.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that runs off surfaces such as lawns, roads, roofs and natural ground surfaces. Ultimately it ends up in our waterways, transported via the gutters, drains and underground pipe network that make up our stormwater drainage system

Every time it rains minor water contamination can occur which includes the release or deposit of contaminants such as chemicals, oil, building waste, waste water, glass, metal or paper into rivers lakes, streams, roadside gutters or stormwater drainage.

Why is stormwater pollution an issue?

Pollutants increase the amount of nutrients in our waterways, causing an imbalance in the aquatic environment. Aquatic ecosystems are delicate and can react strongly to small changes.

The law

Queensland's *Environmental Protection Act* prescribes certain contaminants that are not permitted to enter roadside gutters, stormwater drainage, waters or be reasonably expected to move to waters, roadside gutters or stormwater drainage.

The criteria

When investigating a stormwater complaint, Council will consider:

- The type of pollutant
- The location of the depositing
- The environment and the potential impact
- Views of other neighbours or complainants

Keeping waterways healthy

- ✓ Avoid using harmful or toxic chemicals when conducting activities such as pressure washing
- ✓ Have means of containing wastes such as a spill kit
- ✓ Ensure adequate rubbish containment to prevent the movement of litter
- ✓ Install appropriate measures to prevent contaminants discharge such as erosion and sediment controls, bunding and sand bags.
- ✓ Wash cars on the lawn not the driveway
- ✓ Use drip trays when maintaining equipment such as cars and ride on mowers, dispose of at an oil collection point.
- ✓ Sweep your driveway do not use a hose
- ✓ Discharge air conditioner condensate and pool backwash systems, not directly to the gutter
- ✓ Clean up grass clippings and green waste
- ✓ Don't rinse painting equipment to the gutter
- ✓ Ensure pesticides and herbicides are used in moderation and according to the manufacturer's direction.
- ✓ Store all detergents, solvents, oils or any other chemicals in secure areas

Your Responsibility

Stormwater is not treated before entering our local creeks, rivers and waterways. Everyone has a responsibility to keep our waterways clean and healthy.

For more information, contact Council's Customer Service Centre or visit our website.