

## Water Quality - Domestic Stormwater

### Introduction

The urban stormwater system is designed to drain rainwater away from roofs and paved areas to prevent flooding.

Stormwater is not treated and, in most areas of Hawke's Bay, flows directly into streams, rivers or the sea.

Anything that goes into a stormwater drain, whether it is poured there deliberately or washed down by rainwater, ends up in our natural waterways – the same places in which we swim, fish and play. Even seemingly harmless things like milk are lethal to stream or sea life.

The key to good water quality is to remember that

**"stormwater drains only drain rain."**



The Regional Council can take enforcement action against anyone responsible for allowing contaminants to enter stormwater systems where it can pollute the receiving water body.

The Regional Council is actively working to reduce contamination of stormwater by pollutants, but this requires the co-operation of everyone in the community.

### What can you do?

- Wash cars and other equipment on the lawn where the run-off can soak into the ground, or channel the water away from stormwater gutters towards a garden.
- Always use a drip tray when changing oil or other fluids.

- Recycle used engine oil and antifreeze at your local service station or refuse station.
- Save left over paint or donate it to a school art department.
- Equipment used with water based paint can be washed in the laundry tub as this waste water will go to the sewer for treatment. Never discharge wash water into the stormwater drain.
- Take oil based paints and solvents to your local refuse station, or contact your council for details of household hazardous waste collections.
- Wash concreting and plastering equipment on a lawn or garden or in the laundry tub.
- When water blasting your house or roof, disconnect the downpipes and make sure the dirty wash water discharges to the lawn or garden.

**If you see pollution in a stormwater drain, river, or the sea, phone the Pollution Hotline 0800 108 838.**



Contaminated stormwater in a Hawke's Bay stream.

Also in this series:  
"Stormwater – trade & industrial sites"

### For further information:

Please contact Regional Council Compliance Officers for information and advise on any pollution issues.

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