

High Pressure Cleaning

Wastewater from roof and house cleaning flows directly into our waterways

Stormwater Pollution

High-pressure cleaning runoff and roof cleaning runoff must not go into our stormwater system.

Roof and gutter downpipes connect directly to roadside gutters and stormwater drains. Most hard surfaces also generally drain straight into the stormwater system.

This means wastewater run-off from roof cleaning and high-pressure cleaning ends up in our creeks, lakes, basins, rivers and the ocean.

This runoff has a number of potential pollutants in the water, including paint, oxides, algae, concrete and sediment. These are all considered pollution and can kill aquatic plants and marine life.

By taking some simple precautions when cleaning and restoring roofs and cleaning your house and paths you can help protect our waterways -

- If using a high-pressure cleaner, ensure that all waste water is directed to a soakage area such as the garden or lawn.
- Do not hose down the driveway or any paths into the gutter. Sweep instead.
- Do not undertake these activities on windy days when spray drift may carry pollutants into the stormwater system.

Roof Cleaning

- Where possible, disconnect downpipes and redirect wastewater to the garden or a holding tank for disposal by a licensed liquid waste disposal contractor.
- If disconnecting downpipes is not feasible, block the downpipe when cleaning and feed the wastewater onto lawns or gardens.
- Protect stormwater drains using sandbags or a bund (a barrier to contain water) in the roadside gutter.



- Remove captured wastewater using a vacuum or bilge pump to direct to lawns or gardens, making sure no wastewater flows into the stormwater drain.
- Do not wash or hose remaining waste materials down the stormwater drain.

If a spill does occur near a gutter, drain or waterway:

1. **Stop the source** - cease pressure blasting or washing immediately;
2. **Contain the flow of run-off** - stop the spill from spreading and entering any gutters, drains or waterway by using bunding, digging a collection pit, or using absorbent material such as kitty litter, saw dust or sand;
3. **Clean up the spill** – use absorbent material (eg kitty litter) sandbags, a broom and shovel to help clean up spills. Dispose of the waste (including used kitty litter) responsibly. Never hose a spill down the gutter.

The Legislation

Remember the drain is just for rain!

Allowing polluted wastewater to enter stormwater drains, roadside gutters or waterways is an offence under *The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and has a fine \$4000 for an individual, \$8000 for a Corporation.

If Council investigates and finds high pressure cleaning has caused water to enter the stormwater a **Clean Up Notice will be issued. A Clean Up Notice comes with a fee \$563 administration fee** (current fee for the 2019/2020 financial year).

If you suspect someone is causing water pollution call Council's Environmental Health Team **immediately on 4429 3610 between 9am and 5pm weekdays or**