

Water Pollution

Roof cleaning and restoration

Waste water from roof cleaning and restoration can flow directly into our creeks, rivers and waterways.

Stormwater pollution – the effects of roof cleaning

Roof and gutter downpipes connect directly to roadside gutters, stormwater drains and into our waterways. This means wastewater run-off from roof cleaning ends up in our creeks, rivers and the ocean. Pollutants, such as oxides, algae, paint flakes, concrete and sediment can kill seagrass, aquatic plants and marine life. By taking some simple precautions when cleaning and restoring roofs, you can help protect our waterways.

The Law

It is an offence under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to allow polluted wastewater to enter stormwater drains and roadside gutters and may attract fines or prosecution.

Protecting the environment

We all share responsibility of keeping our waterways clean by making sure only clean water enters our stormwater systems. Steps you can take when cleaning include:

- where possible, disconnect downpipes and redirect wastewater to the garden, or to a holding tank for disposal by a licensed liquid waste disposal contractor.
- if disconnecting downpipes is not feasible, block the downpipe where cleaning and feed the wastewater onto lawns or gardens.
- a hole may be drilled in the gutter or downpipe, downpipes blocked (below the hole) and water diverted to garden beds. When complete, the hole can be plugged with a grommet.
- use sandbags or a portable bund (a barrier to contain water) in the roadside gutter to protect stormwater drains from accidental spills and runoff.



Wastewater residues left in a roadside gutter



Wastewater pollutants flowing into waterways affect aquatic plants and marine life

Rood cleaning and restoration – Artist impression



Other helpful tips

- Always keep a spill response kit, including a shovel, broom and rags, to clean-up residues nearby. Do not wash or hose remaining waste material into the stormwater drain.
- Keep cleaning times to a minimum.
- Wastewater from some houses may drain directly into a nearby waterway or subsurface stormwater pipe (not to a roadside gutter). If this is the case, disconnect downpipes and drain water to the garden or lawn.
- If wastewater accidentally drains to stormwater gutter, remove all captured wastewater as soon as possible using a vacuum or bilge pump and direct to lawns or gardens.
- Sandbags and portable bunds in the roadside gutter will capture accidental spills and runoff. They are not designed to hold wastewater from a full roof clean.
- For Business owners, please ensure all of your staff are aware of these requirements.

For more information

If you require any further information about this or other water pollution matters, please contact Council's Environmental Health team on (07) 5329 6500 or email mail@noosal.qld.gov.au