

Water Pollution

Mobile cleaning and trade business

Run-off from roads, drains and gutters causes poor waterway quality and can be harmful to fish and wildlife. Mobile cleaning and trade businesses can help stop pollutants like detergents, oils and pesticides entering our stormwater system.

The law

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, allowing polluted wastewater to enter stormwater drains and roadside gutters and waterways is an offence and may attract a fine to the value of 15 penalty units (individual) or 75 penalty units (corporation).

Wastewater entering the stormwater drainage system from the following activities can affect water quality and can be harmful to aquatic animals and wildlife:

- pet hydro bath or mobile dog washing units
- car washing
- carpet cleaning
- steam and high-pressure cleaning
- trades
- brick and paver cutting
- aggregate driveway laying
- roof cleaning or recoating.

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

Ways your business can help

- Wastewater consisting only of soil and organic matter can be disposed of into a garden or lawn.
- Wastewater containing oil or chemicals must be collected by an appropriate regulated waste company. You must obtain approval from your water authority for waste disposed of via sewer system under a Trade Waste permit.
- Use sandbags or a portable bund to prevent waste water from entering drains.
- Sweep up all waste rather than hosing down.
- Avoid detergents, oils, pesticides or chemicals near drains, gutters and waterways.

- Work on a grassed or gravelled area away from drains, roadside gutters and waterways.
- Use a bucket to collect waste water for reuse or proper disposal.
- Store all detergents, solvents, oils or any other chemicals in a secure area.
- Collect all waste and use a licensed recycling operator or disposal facility.
- Clean up spills or leaks using dry absorbent materials such as kitty litter, rags or a bund.
- Use as little water as possible, or use trigger hoses where necessary.
- Ensure all staff are aware of their environmental responsibilities.

Complaints

To report an urgent water pollution event (i.e. soil being washed into a rain), phone Council on (07) 5329 6500 to enable a prompt response to the issue.

You can lodge a complaint for a non-urgent water pollution issue with Council by:

- ☎ **Phone:** (07) 5329 6500
- ✉ **Email:** mail@noosa.qld.gov.au
- 👤 **Council Office:** 9 Pelican Street, Tewantin

You will need to provide the following information:

- Time and date of incident
- Address location
- Type and amount of waste
- Description of the alleged offender or business
- Vehicle description including colour, model, registration number (if relevant)
- Photographic evidence