

# MANAGING STORMWATER THE CHOIN IS JUST FOR POIN

# PRACTICE NOTE: SW02

This Practice Note is part of a series of notes developed to assist with the use and implementation of the Central Hawke's Bay District Council's (Council) Stormwater Bylaw 2021.

# Introduction

Everything that goes into the stormwater system has the potential to discharge untreated into our streams, rivers and eventually the sea. We all have an important role to play in protecting the stormwater system and controlling what goes into the system. The public is responsible for ensuring contaminants like litter, detergents, fuels, paints, oils and other chemicals don't enter the stormwater system. Landowners are responsible for managing the stormwater runoff from their land to avoid polluting our waterways. Central Hawke's Bay District Council is responsible for managing the discharge of stormwater from our public stormwater system to the receiving environment.

# Purpose

We have written this practice note to provide some examples of contaminants (pollutants) we all need to actively manage so they don't end up and cause nuisance in our stormwater system.

Did you know that under the Resource Management Act 1991 it is illegal to discharge contaminants (to land, air or water) that are outside of conditions of a consent issued by Hawke's Bay Regional Council.

# Litter

There is no reason to throw litter on the ground, take it home with you and dispose of it correctly – remember the four R's: Reduce, Reuse and



Recycle to lessen the quantity of waste you throw away, then consider recovery. We need to work together to create a Waste Free CHB! Typically chip packets, muesli bar wrappers and even cigarette butts are still a common form of litter along with many other items that become litter; these end up being washed or blown into our stormwater system, then into the streams and rivers and out to sea.



# Washing your vehicle

The runoff from washing your vehicle can contain mud, heavy metals and detergents; it may also contain some oils and greases. Wash your vehicle on the lawn so the dirty and soapy water is soaked into the ground. By washing your vehicle on the lawn, this helps naturally treat the soaps you use. Even better if you are using your rainwater (retention) to wash your vehicle as this reduces water use from the Council drinking water network.



## Fuels and Solvents

These chemicals can damage fish gills, poison animals and plants and build up in the systems of marine animals. Some of these chemicals are also a fire hazard when in small spaces such as stormwater pipes and manholes. Fuels and solvents should be stored in approved containers and any spills cleaned up immediately and disposed of carefully.



# Oil

Waste oil from car repairs, oil changes or spills

contain toxic chemicals poisonous to aquatic life. The oil can cover a large area of the water surface if it enters the waterbody, meaning oxygen cannot enter the water thereby destroying fish, birds and other animal life. Used oil must be collected in a container that can be sealed, (for example, the container that the original oil came in) for disposal or recycling at an approved location.

#### Sediment



Sediments washed off properties (residential or industrial), roads and other sealed areas smother stream beds, destroy habitats and kill aquatic life. To ensure sediment is not washed into the stormwater drains you can limit earthworks during winter, make sure any stockpiles of soil are not located next to stormwater drains or are covered with tarpaulins. Sediment fences should be made of appropriate materials (hay bales, geotextile cloth), sediment traps and ponds maintained and make sure you sow lawns or plant gardens as soon as possible so soil is not left bare.

## Paint



Paint can poison animals that drink from or live in our streams and cause very noticeable coloured discharges. It can also restrict the light from entering our waterbodies, this is adverse for aquatic life. Good practices include not painting in the rain and keeping paint tins away from stormwater drains. When cleaning your painting equipment - environmentally friendly paint can be cleaned from brushes onto the lawn or garden where it can soak into the soil, it should never be washed into our stormwater systems which would enter our streams and rivers.



#### **Concrete and Cement**

When wet concrete and cement are dissolved in water, these products produce an alkaline solution that burns and kills aquatic life that comes into contact with it.



#### **Garden Waste**

Have you been mowing, weeding or pruning? Sweep up your grass and hedge clippings and add them to your compost or green waste bin if you have one. Sweeping or hosing them into the gutter or drain can block the stormwater system causing flooding. It also adds nutrients and soil material that are detrimental to the aquatic environment.



## Pools

Pool or spa chemicals do not belong in the stormwater system, nor does the emptying or filter backwash water. The pipes that take your pool or spa discharge water should be connected to the wastewater system.



## Avoiding wastewater entering the stormwater system

Inflow is the direct discharge of stormwater into the wastewater network; this usually occurs due to illegal cross-connections such as downpipes discharging to the gully trap. The problem is, that when stormwater overloads the wastewater system, there are discharges of untreated wastewater into our environment and this poses a health and ecological risk. As landowners, we all need to check that our downpipes are connected correctly to the stormwater system (private or public) and our wastewater gully traps are installed in accordance with the building code so stormwater cannot enter them directly. Infiltration is the entry of groundwater into the network through faults in the network such as cracked or broken pipes. Council are doing work such as closed-circuit television (CCTV) to understand the current state of the network and renewing or repairing where required to reduce infiltration into the public pipes. Landowners are required to make sure any private stormwater drainage system is maintained in a good state.

There are many other contaminants to consider - have a look at our Waste Guide on our website for information on Reducing, Reusing or Disposing of waste, www.chbdc.govt.nz/services/rubbish-recycling-and-all-things-waste/waste-free-chb





#### Be ready

If you own or work at a premise that has the potential for a spill of contaminants make sure you have an up-to-date spill response plan and that workers know what to do. This includes having the right Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) spill kit on hand in case of an event. Refer to CHBDC 'Stormwater Drainage Protection Plans Guidance Document' for further information on how to be prepared. It is important that all premises are actively managed as the stormwater discharged from these sites is potentially more damaging.

#### Stop the source

Ensure all work in the area is ceased. If able to – stand containers upright, or plug the leak, shut off valves or pumps and block off stormwater drains so it doesn't spill any further.

#### Be safe

Is it hazardous? Dial 111 if required, and contact CHBDC 24/7 to report **(06 857 8060) www.chbdc.govt.nz** or use the Send Snap Solve App. CHBDC have a spill response and reporting procedure they will implement. You may be able to check the Safety Data Sheets for the substance/s spilled to understand the risk and clean up needed.

#### Clean up

- Wear appropriate PPE and keep safe.
- Neutralise hazardous substances.
- Sweep or vacuum all contaminated material into appropriate containers.
- Dispose of waste correctly (never hose it into the stormwater drain).
- Restock spill equipment used in the clean up (such as absorbent material and disposable PPE).





