

# How can you help stop stormwater pollution

## We can all help to stop the pollution of our waterways.

Each year our streams, rivers and the harbour get polluted due to lack of awareness about what pollutes our stormwater system. Under the Resource Management Act it is illegal to allow any substance other than rain water to enter the stormwater system.

## Pollution of our waterways can:

- make streams and the harbour unsafe for swimming and other recreational activities
- ruin the appearance of our streams and harbour
- kill plants and animals

## Stormwater sumps should only drain rain.

The stormwater system collects water from roofs, footpaths, roads and groundwater. All roadside gutters and sumps lead to the stormwater system. If you tip waste down a roadside sump it will end up in a stream or the harbour. Stormwater is not treated – it will appear in the waterways in much the same condition as when you tipped it down there.

## What pollutes our waterways?

Oil, grease, tar, silt, paint, litter, cigarette butts, animal droppings, detergent and chemical cleaners are all pollutants. And remember, just because a product is labelled 'biodegradable' doesn't mean it can be dumped into a stormwater drain.

## What can you do to stop pollution?

You can stop pollution getting into the stormwater system by:

- not hosing waste away, instead sweep it up and disposing of it with your other rubbish
- mopping up any spills immediately and not letting them flow into the stormwater drain
- making sure the gutters are clear of debris including leaves and grass clippings
- making sure the contaminated water used for rinsing equipment such as paint brushes and containers doesn't flow into the stormwater
- putting litter in the rubbish bins, including cigarette butts
- picking up all animal droppings
- disposing of excess paint and chemicals in the hazardous waste area at landfills
- washing your car on the grass or in a commercial car wash – this stops detergent, oils and greases getting into the stormwater system
- regularly servicing your car. This stops leaking oil getting into the stormwater system – it only takes one litre of oil to contaminate a thousand tonnes of water.

Got any questions or need more information? Call Wellington City Council tel 499 4444 or The Greater Wellington Regional Council tel 384 5708 or check out [www.wcc.govt.nz](http://www.wcc.govt.nz) or [www.gw.govt.nz](http://www.gw.govt.nz)

**To report pollution events please ring The Greater Wellington Regional Council Pollution Hotline 0800 496 734**