

# Pollution Control Stormwater Drainage

## Exterior Cleaning & Water-Blasting activities

You must consider the potential your activity has to pollute the environment through council's stormwater drains.

This booklet will help identify whether you could be causing land or water pollution and provides advice on how to act in a legal and environmentally responsible manner.



**Save our streams!  
Save our Lakes!**



# There are many pollutants associated with exterior cleaning wastes that may enter council's stormwater drains. These include:

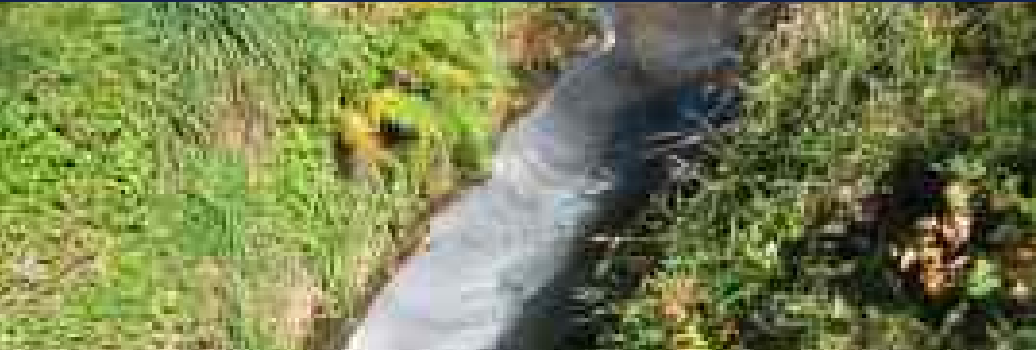
- ▶ Cleaning solutions or other additives.
- ▶ materials removed from the surface being cleaned (including algae, mould, lichen or other organic wastes, oil/grease, paint, sludge, dirt, heavy metals and bird droppings).
- ▶ compounds produced from reactions between the cleaning solution and the materials removed from the surface being cleaned.
- ▶ chlorine in the mains water.
- ▶ highly alkaline wastewater from concrete driveways and structures such as roofs.



## Some common indicators of poor works practices are:

- ▶ no provision for the collection and disposal of waste water.
- ▶ wash water in the road side kerbing, stormwater system or waterways.
- ▶ stormwater grates and drains blocked with waste materials.
- ▶ discolouration in waterways
- ▶ dead fish and other creatures in streams and lakes.

Whether you use high or low pressure, hot or cold water, with or without cleaning additives, the resulting wastewater must be collected for proper treatment and disposal. If not, it will probably enter and pollute a natural waterbody such as a lake, stream or a groundwater aquifer. This harms the creatures that live in streams and the lake and reduces our use and enjoyment of the environment.



The solutions offered in this booklet are not exhaustive. Other solutions will exist given the variety of pressure water-blasting methods and the work environments encountered.

You may feel these guidelines are not practical, or that the suggested solutions are just too hard or expensive to implement. Before you carry out your water-blasting activities with no controls in place, please consider that;

**If your company generates a water-blasting waste and does not dispose of it properly, then you are contributing to the pollution problems of the Rotorua district...and breaking the law!**

If you have any concerns or would like advice on your proposed solutions, please contact a Pollution Control Officer at the Rotorua District Council. By making a few simple changes to your site and daily practices you will be contributing to a pollution free environment for us all to enjoy both now and in the future.