

Stormwater Care

YES!

- Wash your paint brush on the lawn or garden.
- Wash your car on a concrete pad connected to the sewer.
- Clean up any chemical spills around the home by soaking up the mess.
- Recycle old car engine oil or take it to a proper disposal facility.
- Empty your swimming pool in the sewerage system.
- In rural areas, install proper holding tanks for animal wastes.
- Store chemicals in a well aired lockable shed.
- Use rubbish bins for litter.

NO!

- Don't tip unwanted paint down the drain.
- Don't wash your car out on the road.
- Don't hose chemicals down the drain.
- Don't dump car engine oil down the drain.
- Don't let your swimming pool water run into stormwater drains.
- Don't run animal wastes into the stormwater drain.
- Don't store chemicals outside where they could leak and be washed into a drain.
- Don't use the gutter as a litter bin.

What can you do to help?

Report pollution of drains and waterways to the Rotorua District Council.

I only drain rain!

Our alloy fish on our stormwater drain grates remind people that our stormwater drains discharge directly into our Lake.



Rotorua District Council
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Stormwater Drain Pollution Prevention



Water Pollution in Rotorua

The problem

If any pollutants get into stormwater grates they will also end up untreated in our streams and in our Lakes.

The cause

Pollutants in streams and in lakes get there because people have poured wastes down stormwater grates, or have washed spills into them.

Most people don't know that stormwater grates are only supposed to drain rain. They are there to catch rainwater running off city streets, roofs, footpaths, carparks and yards. The grates enter the runoff into pipes which drain the water away into streams and lakes or underground, so it won't cause flooding.

Your stormwater drain is not a waste disposal or Sewerage system. Any pollutants that enter the stormwater system will also reach our waterways.

The solution

Don't put anything down a stormwater grate that you would not want to drink or swim in!

Be aware!
Do your share!
Don't pollute!

Did you know that these everyday household & industrial products are hazardous to fish?

Food Products

- Dairy products
- Juices
- Food Acids
- Alcohol
- Sugars
- Pulps
- Fats and edible oils

Painting and renovating products

- Turps
- Wood preservatives
- Paint – oil or water based
- Cement
- Rustproof coatings
- Paint stripper
- Thinners or solvents

Automotive products

- Antifreeze
- Brake fluid
- Fuel – diesel or petrol
- Used oil
- Transmission fluid
- Degreasers
- Radiator water
- Car washing detergent

Gardening products

- Lawn clippings
- Fungicides
- Pesticides
- Herbicides
- Rodent baits
- Insecticides
- Molluscicides
- Fertilisers

Cleaning products

- Disinfectants
- Caustics
- Roof cleaning chemicals
- Drain and toilet cleaners
- Detergents
- Carpet cleaning water
- Polishers and cleaners

Recreational products

- Swimming pool chlorine
- Outboard motor oil
- Scrubdown sandings
- Spa pool water
- Boat bilge water
- Litter

**Want to know more about use and disposal of any of these substances?
Phone (07) 348-4199**

The Myths

“That stormwater grates take it all ‘away’”

But there is no ‘away’ in the environment. Anything we tip or let go down the stormwater grate will end up affecting our local waterways – and the places we go for our recreational activities.

“That stormwater is ‘pure rainwater’”

Contaminated stormwater accounts for a considerable amount of the uncontrolled pollution entering our streams and lakes.

Most of these contaminants come from motor vehicles and most of the rest – and often the worst – are pollutants washed off untidy industrial yards by rainfall.

To combat this threat to our natural environment, the Rotorua District Council has implemented a long term programme to remove these pollutants from stormwater before it enters our natural waterways, using a range of techniques.