

Pollution Prevention

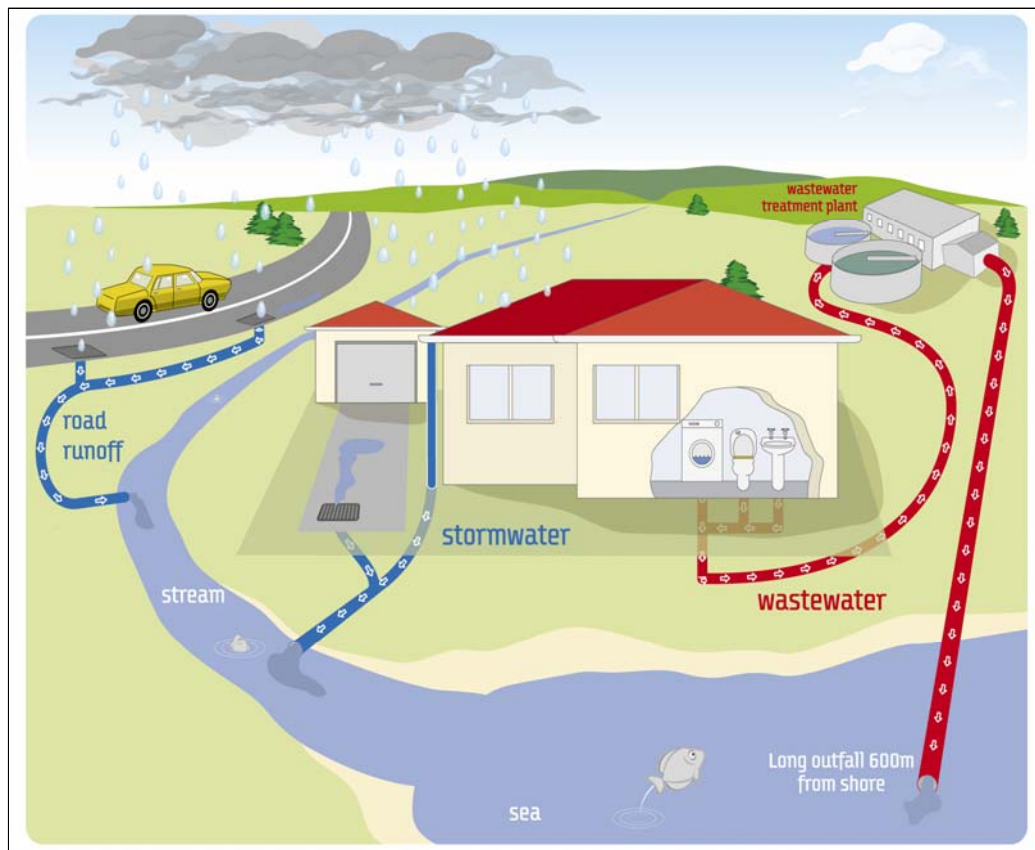


Know Your Drains!

There are many everyday things you do around your home that could harm the environment. By knowing what these activities are and by making sure you dispose of your waste in the right way – you'll be helping to protect the environment!! **There are 2 types of drains:**

Inside drains like your toilet, sinks and washing machine **go to the sewer treatment plant.**

Outside drains like your gutters, driveway drains and roadside stormwater drains **go directly into our streams, lake and beaches without any treatment!**



So anything tipped, washed or accidentally spilled into an outside drain will end up in our streams, lake and on our beaches – and then we swim and fish in it!

Interesting pollution facts

Every year approximately **100,000 litres** of detergents and **16,000 kilograms** of dirt and other pollutants flow into North Shore City's streams, lake and beaches **just from people washing their cars on the road.**

Approximately **15%** of the pollution incidents reported to North Shore City Council are traced to **painting activities.**

Wet concrete washings are arguably the **most harmful, yet least recognised pollutant** that enter our waterways from household activities everyday.

About **9 million litres of lubrication oil** is unaccounted for each year in the Auckland Region – which probably means that we end up swimming and fishing in it!

Common pollution sources around the home

Washing your car or boat

Wastewater from vehicle washing contains dirt, oils, road residue, detergent and other contaminants, which are all harmful to the environment.

DO:

- Detergent wash your vehicle on the grass so that soapy run-off can soak safely into the ground
- Take your vehicle to a commercial wash facility so all wastes go to the sewer.

DON'T:

- Wash your car or boat in a place where washwater can run off to the roadside gutter or stormwater drain
- Use solvents or degreasing agents when washing over grass
- Allow house-cleaning washwater to enter the stormwater system

Washing paint brushes and other painting equipment

Paints and paint thinners contain toxic solvents and heavy metals (such as lead, chromium and mercury), which have a harmful effect on stream habitat and poison stream life.

DO:

- Wash your brushes, trays and other equipment on the grass to soak away or into an inside sink.
- If using oil-based paints, keep your washings and allow to settle, then strain out the solid waste and re-use the turpentine/thinners.
- Store your paint and equipment undercover, out of the rain.
- Dispose of surplus paint at the next HazMobile collection.

DON'T:

- Wash your brushes to an outside drain
- Pour surplus paint down inside or outside drains
- Put your old paint out for inorganic rubbish collection

DIY jobs involving concrete

Concrete contains lime which dissolves easily in water to produce a strongly alkaline solution that quickly burns and kills any fish, insects and plants that come in contact with it, in much the same way as acid does.

DO:

- Clean your equipment over the garden or grass

DON'T:

- Allow your concrete waste or equipment washings to enter an outside drain

Changing oil from your car or lawn mower

Used oil can smother stream habitat and poison animals and plants and also contaminate land and the underlying groundwater.

DO:

- Ensure you use a container to collect the used oil and prevent spillage.
- Take your used oil to the next HazMobile collection.

DON'T:

- Pour oil down the stormwater or sewer system

If you see any water pollution please call North Shore City Council's ACTIONLINE or the Auckland Regional Council's (ARC) Water Pollution Hotline as soon as possible. A prompt call will help us to trace the pollution to a source and educate or fine those responsible.

NORTH SHORE CITY COUNCIL
ACTIONLINE
☎ 09 486 8400 (24 HRS)
Private Bag 93 500, Takapuna
www.northshorecity.govt.nz

ARC
WATER POLLUTION HOTLINE
☎ 09 377 3107 (24HRS)
Private Bag 92 012, Auckland
www.arc.govt.nz

