
Christchurch City Council

Stormwater

Protecting our waterways



What is stormwater?

Any water that runs off a hard surface such as a roof, driveway, forecourt or road into gutters, sumps, streams, rivers and lakes is stormwater.

Why do we care about stormwater?

What goes down the drain ends up in our waterways.

All stormwater in Christchurch flows down gutters and drains into a network of underground pipes and open waterways and eventually enters our streams and rivers.

It is through the stormwater system that contaminants such as oil, grease, paint, metal particles, sediment and other spilt substances are able to reach our waterways.

Most stormwater is untreated and unfiltered. When it rains, contaminants are washed into the stormwater system and discharged into streams and rivers.

Poor water quality affects ecosystems and harms plant and animal life. It can also affect drinking water supplies and can be harmful to people who use our waterways for recreation.

What can I do to help?

Be aware that contaminants can build up on any hard surface such as a roof, driveway, delivery area, or car park.



Check

- Drainpipes for damage and repair them as needed
- Bins and skips are covered so no rainwater can get inside
- Stormwater is clear with no colour, smell, suds, surface oil, or sediment
- Stormwater is not flowing during dry conditions, which can otherwise indicate a wastewater connection

Avoid

- Activities that cause dirty water runoff such as washing vehicles or containers on a sealed surface
- Storing liquids near a stormwater drain

Know

- Which activities at your premises pose a risk to stormwater
- How to clean and maintain your stormwater system
- How to store chemicals properly (in a bunded area)
- How to prevent contaminants from leaking or spilling into the stormwater system
- How to report a pollution incident (0800 765 588 any time)



We each have a role to play in protecting our waterways.

For more advice contact:

- Christchurch City Council on 03 941 8999
- Environment Canterbury on 03 365 3828

If you need to report a spill contact:

- Pollution hotline on 0800 765 588

More information is available online at:

- ccc.govt.nz
- ecan.govt.nz

Three Waters and Waste

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