

Stoke Streams RESCUE

What goes in here



Goes through here



Comes out here



Photo by Hillary Gregory.

Goes in here!



Everything that goes down your stormwater (outside) drains, goes directly into the nearest stream or the sea

Can YOU help to reduce contaminants entering our waterways?

Your challenge

There are a number of streams in the Stoke area that flow from the hills, through farmland and the urban area and exit at the Waimea Inlet. By the time they reach the Inlet they have picked up numerous contaminants and are heavily polluted.

Can you change just ONE thing that you are currently doing that results in polluted water getting into streams?

Is there something on the following list of actions you could be doing better?

GO ON – GIVE IT A GO!

If everyone changes just one thing for the better, we really can make a difference to water quality in our streams and the sea.

Banded kōkopu (*Galaxias fasciatus*) © Angus McIntosh, Natural Sciences Image Library



What you can do to help

AROUND THE HOME: If you are doing maintenance or any work around the home such as concreting, waterblasting, painting, cleaning, sanding or earthworks then you should take steps to protect the waterways. Clean up waste or spilt material before it washes into the streams but don't hose it directly into gutters. Do not allow contaminated water to enter stormwater systems or streams, by making sure it is controlled, contained or diverted away from stormwater drains.

SWEEP: Hosing your paths and driveway to remove dirt and grime can wash it directly into the roadside gutter and eventually into streams and the sea. Silt and sediments fill the gaps among the stones in the streambed and smother habitat for insect life. Sweep the hard surfaces around your property and dispose of the sweepings into your garden or the rubbish.

PAINT: Clean your paint brushes at an inside sink which is connected to the sewerage system, not the drain by the outside tap. Leftover paint can be allowed to dry in a container and then disposed of in the general rubbish collection. Unused acrylic or oil based paint can be taken to Resene for recycling or disposal.

CONCRETE: Never allow concrete wastewater to flow into stormwater drains. Any water that comes into contact with uncured concrete is highly toxic even in very small amounts. Direct all wastewater (including rain runoff) to soak into the ground or use a pump to remove and dispose of waste.



Water blasting



Acrylic Paint



The result of cement getting into a stream

EARTHWORKS: Make sure all sediment is controlled, contained or diverted away from stormwater drains. Sediment can kill and injure fish and destroy habitats and may also contain toxic chemicals and heavy metals which can poison fish, other wildlife and stream users.

CARS: Wash your car on the lawn so that soapy water soaks into the grass instead of running into the gutter, or use the carwash. Never dispose of oil or other motor fluids by tipping them down the drain, they need to be properly disposed of at the Transfer Station (oil and car batteries are free). Keep vehicles maintained and get leaks repaired.

DOGS: Doggy doo contains almost twice as much *E.coli* bacteria per gram as human faeces, seven times more than a pig and 92 times that of a cow! Please clean up after your dog when out walking. Even the deposits in the back yard can wash into stormwater drains when it rains, so pick them up too.

LITTER: Can contain harmful pollutants, block waterways and look horrible. Dispose of your litter in bins, through the household collection service or take it to the Transfer Station. Don't allow cigarette butts to flush into the waterways as they are toxic to stream life.

GARDEN AND FOOD WASTE: Garden trimmings, sweepings, lawn clippings and food waste can be composted or disposed of at the Transfer Station. Do not tip green waste over stream banks. Dumped garden waste is one of the major causes of weed infestations along streambanks. Lawn clippings and decaying garden or food waste deplete oxygen levels in streams and can suffocate fish and other wildlife.

GARDEN MAINTENANCE: Use fertilisers and sprays sparingly and do not apply over concrete. Never tip chemicals or flush out sprayers directly down outside drains. Take unused, non-commercial chemicals and fertilizers to the Transfer Station.

SWIMMING/SPA POOLS: Where possible dispose of pool water into the sewerage system. It can be discharged to stormwater only if completely free from chemicals and debris. Where this cannot be done, drain onto land where it can soak into the ground, however, it must not enter into or be within 25m of waterbodies, cause ponding or affect adjoining land. Dispose of cleaning material via indoor sinks. Pool water contains chlorine which is toxic to fish and insects.



Photos courtesy of Auckland Council.

If you notice anything fishy going on in your local waterways, report your concerns to Council.


- The sooner Council can respond, the better to stop the cause of pollution.
- **You have more eyes, ears and noses than Council.** At any one time, there may be only a few Council officers out in the field.
- Where there is an incident happening, a response will be initiated within 30 minutes for urban areas and slightly longer in rural situations.
When an incident has already passed, the matter will be investigated promptly (within 2 working days).
- **You can remain anonymous if you wish.** Nobody wants to get offside with neighbours; but if you don't do anything, chances are that no one will speak for the stream.

The best thing that we can do for the water quality of our local streams and the sea is to:

LET NOTHING DOWN DRAINS OTHER THAN RAIN

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Nelson City Council:
Land Management Adviser
Phone **546 0200** or
email lynne.hall@ncc.govt.nz

 To report spills or pollution incidents (24hrs)
Phone 546 0200

 **Nelson City Council**
te kaunihera o whakatū

The Stoke Streams Rescue project is a partnership between Nelson City Council, Waimaori Stream Care and the Cawthron Institute and is supported with funding from the Ministry for the Environment.



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