



Nelson Central School's 'Only Rain Down the Drain' street art

PLEASE DON'T WASH PAINTING EQUIPMENT, DIRTY VEHICLES, GARDEN WASTE OR SOIL INTO A STORMWATER DRAIN OR STREAM.

During the COVID-19 Lockdown our compliance officers have been called out for an increasing number of stream pollution cases.

The main causes have been people washing paint brushes and other DIY equipment into stormwater drains, and pollution such as oil and dirt being washed into streams or drains.

These pollutants can kill fish and other stream life. Paint is toxic, and dirt and sediment can have long term impacts on water clarity, making it harder for fish to breathe, see and eat. It can also cause skin damage to fish making them more susceptible to disease.

Once sediment enters a stream it can

settle on the bottom and smother the natural stream bed where algae and invertebrates live and fish like to hide. This affects the food sources and natural lifecycle of stream life.

So when you are doing work in the garden, or cleaning a muddy vehicle or painting equipment, remember only rain down the storm drain and keep dirt and paint where it belongs away from our waterways. Remember there is a \$750 fine for anyone caught polluting our rivers and streams.

WAKAPUAKA STORY MAP - WHAT DO YOU KNOW?

Nelson City Council's Healthy Streams team is creating a geo-tagged story map which will explore the stories of the Wakapuaka river catchment.

The team is looking for images of the Wakapuaka area from past and present residents, along with any stories and memories they would like to share. Of particular interest are stories of people interacting with the waterways such as picnics, playing, swimming and fishing etc.

We are also looking for information about community stream protection efforts, so before and after shots

of stream-side plantings would be gratefully received

Digital images can be sent to healthy.streams@ncc.govt.nz. Please include as much information as possible about the image (location, any people in it and the date if possible). The project will credit any images used. You can see examples of story maps at:

nelson.govt.nz/healthy-streams/story-maps

TOP TIPS TO KEEP OUR STREAMS CLEAN:



- Wash painting equipment using the two bucket method
- Wash dirty vehicles, bicycles, motorbikes etc. on grass, lawn or gravel surfaces where the dirty water will be absorbed by the soil below, not washed down the drain.
- Avoid heavy gardening work such as digging or clearing vegetation when rain is forecast.
- Don't wash soil from tools, wheelbarrows, machinery or other equipment into the stormwater drain.

our.nelson.govt.nz/stories/diy-painters-guide-to-paint-disposal

NEW SIGNAGE TO ENCOURAGE RAINWATER HARVESTING

The Atawhai Playcentre rainwater tank has new signage explaining how the rain tank works and what the water is used for.

The sign also includes a QR Code that connects to Council's rainwater harvesting page for more information and advice. Check it out if you are in the area!



ATAWHAI PLAYCENTRE RAINWATER TANK

This rainwater tank collects and stores rain from the roof. The water is used by the community gardens for irrigation and by the Playcentre for play and gardening activities.

Nelson often experiences dry summers. Rainwater harvesting can help you keep your vegetable garden green and your fruit trees growing over the dry period, especially during restrictions.

You can collect rainwater in a barrel, a large tank or slim line rainwater bladders depending on your budget and how much storage you need. You'll need a downpipe diverter and filter system to funnel the water into the barrel and stop it getting clogged with leaves.

RAINWATER HARVESTING GIVE IT A GO

THE BENEFITS

Harvesting rainwater has many benefits including:

- Reducing pressure on our streams, rivers, and groundwater resources, especially during dry weather.
- Saving money on water bills.
- Providing irrigation water during restrictions.
- Giving yourself an emergency supply.
- Taking water out of the stormwater system during heavy rain, which can help reduce flooding and erosion.

INSTALLING A RAIN TANK AT HOME

- Check the condition of your roof for rust, paint or other contaminants.
- Put your tank in a shady place if possible.
- Think about where any overflow will go.
- If it is going to be plumbed into your house, check building consent requirements.
- For a how to video, go to nelson.govt.nz/rainwater-harvesting

COLLECTING RAINWATER



USING STORED WATER



SCAN THIS CODE TO WATCH OUR HOW TO VIDEO

