Mobile cleaning and trade businesses

Run-off from roads, drains and gutters causes poor waterway quality and can be harmful to fish and wildlife. Mobile cleaning and trade businesses can help stop pollutants like detergents, oils and pesticides entering our stormwater system.

Relevant businesses
This fact sheet will help if your business involves:
- pet hydro bath or mobile dog washing units
- car washing
- carpet cleaning
- steam and high-pressure cleaning
- trades
- brick and paver cutting
- aggregate driveway laying
- roof cleaning or recoating.

Ways your business can help
- Where wastewater consists only of soil and organic matter (no oil or chemicals) it is suitable to dispose of waste water into a garden or grassed area, where it cannot run into a stormwater drain or waterway.
- Wastewater containing any oil or chemicals must be collected by an appropriate regulated waste company. For permanent situations, Council of the City of Gold Coast (Council) approval must be obtained for waste to be disposed of via the sewer system under a Trade Waste permit.
- Use sandbags or a portable bund to prevent waste water from entering drains.
- Sweep up all waste material rather than hosing down.
- Avoid using detergents, oils, pesticides or chemicals near drains, gutters and waterways.
- Work on a grassed or gravelled area away from drains, roadside gutters and waterways.
- Collect waste water for reuse or proper disposal.
- Store all detergents, solvents, oils or any other chemicals in a secure area where it cannot leak into the ground or ground water.
- Collect all waste and dispose of via a licensed recycling operator or disposal facility.
- Clean up spills or leaks using dry absorbent materials such as kitty litter, rags or a bund.
- Use as little water as possible, or use trigger hoses where necessary.
- Ensure all staff are aware of their environmental responsibilities.

The law
Under the Environmental Protection Act, allowing polluted wastewater to enter stormwater drains, roadside gutters and waterways is an offence and may attract an on-the-spot fine to the value of 15 penalty units (for an individual) or 75 penalty units (for a corporation), or prosecution for multiple offences. See the City website for information about penalty unit values.

For more information
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