

WATER POLLUTION

ROOF CLEANING AND RESTORATION

You don't need to get permission from Council to clean or restore your roof, however, it is important that any work is done carefully so that you don't pollute our waterways.

THE EFFECTS OF ROOF CLEANING

Stormwater Pollution

Roof and gutter downpipes connect directly to roadside gutters and stormwater drains. This means that wastewater run-off from roof cleaning ends up in our creeks and rivers. Pollutants, such as oxides, algae, paint flakes, concrete and sediment can kill aquatic plants and marine life. By taking some simple precautions when cleaning and restoring roofs, you can help protect our waterways.

The Law

Allowing polluted wastewater to enter stormwater drains, roadside gutters or waterways is an offence under the *Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and may attract significant fines.

STEPS YOU CAN TAKE WHEN CLEANING

Downpipes

- Where possible, disconnect downpipes and redirect wastewater to the garden or a holding tank for disposal by a licensed liquid waste disposal contractor.
- If disconnecting downpipes is not feasible, block the downpipe when cleaning and feed the wastewater onto lawns or gardens.

Gutters

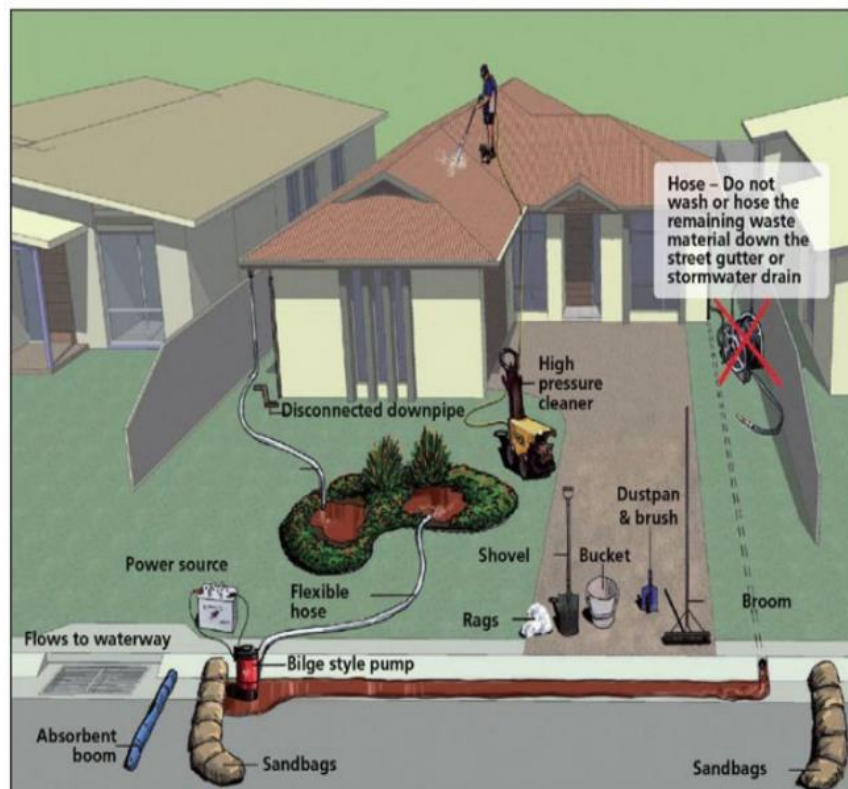
- A hole may be drilled in the gutter, downpipes blocked and water diverted to garden beds. When complete, plug the hole with a grommet.

Stormwater Drains

- Protect stormwater drains using sandbags or a portable bund (a barrier to contain water) in the roadside gutter.
- Remove captured wastewater using a vacuum or bilge pump and direct it to lawns or gardens, making sure that no wastewater flows into the stormwater drain.
- Always keep handy a spill response kit, including a shovel, broom and rags, to clean up residues.
- Do not wash or hose any remaining waste material down the stormwater drain.

Another helpful hint

- Keep cleaning times to a minimum. It is possible to over clean the roof. This will save water and help prevent run-off from entering waterways.



Roof cleaning and restoration – artist impression

FOR MORE INFORMATION

If you require any further information about this or other water pollution matters, please contact Council's Environmental Health Section on (02) 4677 1100.

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