

What can we do?

✓ Use a broom to sweep up

Sweep up leaves and litter so they can't be washed into the drain. Cover piles of sand or mulch so they don't wash into drains.

✓ Use less fertiliser on the garden

Fertiliser you put on your garden can feed algal blooms if it gets into the river. Give plants only what they need, use slow release fertilisers and never exceed the recommended rate.

✓ Clean up after the dog

Dog droppings left on footpaths can wash into stormwater drains, polluting lakes with bacteria and nutrients. Always pick up after your dog.

✓ Put cigarette butts and rubbish into the bin

Rubbish can block drains and pollute waterways. Always put rubbish in bins and keep a rubbish bag in your car.

✓ Wash your car on the grass

Wash your car on the lawn or go to a carwash. Use a phosphorus free detergent.

✓ Wash paint brushes in a container

Clean water based paints over grass. Re-use turps once the paint has settled. Never dispose of paint, turps or solvents down a stormwater drain.

Dispose of rubbish properly

Never use a stormwater drain to dispose of paint or chemicals. Contact your local council to find out how to dispose of chemicals, car batteries and hazardous waste properly.

Report pollution

Report pollution of stormwater to your Local Council.

If you see dead fish in the Swan River notify the Swan River Trust on 9278 0400 or after hours on 0419 192 845

In a pollution emergency, phone the Department of Environmental Protection on 9222 7000 during office hours or 1800 018 800 after hours.

Join a Yellow Fish drain marking team

Community volunteers paint yellow fish on stormwater drains. Contact the Claise Brook Catchment Group to help.

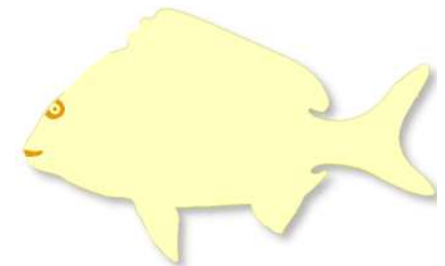
Claise Brook Catchment Group
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What is Stormwater Pollution?

The rain that runs off paved areas like driveways, roads and footpaths is called stormwater. Stormwater is carried away through drains and pipes under our road system, into lakes like Hyde Park and eventually into the Swan River.

As stormwater washes over the land, it collects litter, animal droppings, leaves, cigarette butts, pesticides and chemicals, washing these pollutants into our waterways.

This brochure explains some simple things we all can do to reduce pollution in our local waterways.



*Some stormwater drains are marked with yellow fish symbols or messages to remind everyone that **stormwater drains are only for rain***

Everyone can help reduce stormwater pollution

What we can do at home

Leaves, garden clippings and soil can harm our waterways.

- ✓ Use a broom to sweep your gutter and driveways rather than hosing them down.
- ✓ Put leaves in the compost or use as mulch
- ✓ Cover piles of sand or mulch so they don't wash into drains
- ✓ Re-plant areas of disturbed soil and don't let mulch wash into drains.
- ✓ Don't plant deciduous trees where the leaves will fall into the gutter.
- ✓ Never pour chemicals, paint or anything down a stormwater drain. Only rain should go down the drain.

What we can do in the street

Dog droppings left on footpaths can wash into stormwater drains, polluting lakes with bacteria and nutrients. Litter can block drains and cause flooding.

- ✓ Always pick up after your dog.
- ✓ Put cigarette butts and other litter in the bin.
- ✓ If there is no bin handy, hold onto your litter until you find one.
- ✓ Keep a rubbish bag in your car.
- ✓ Pitch in and help clean up littered areas.

What we can do in the garden

Many gardeners are unaware that excessive fertiliser applied to their garden easily washes through Perth's sandy soil into our local lakes and waterways.

This is having terrible repercussions on the wider environment, choking the Swan River, lakes and wetlands with too much nitrogen and phosphorus, leading to algal blooms and the death of wildlife.

- ✓ Use less fertiliser on the garden
- ✓ Don't fertilise in winter when heavy rains will wash phosphorus into waterways.
- ✓ Use fertiliser sparingly. Slow release fertilisers are better. Never exceed the recommended rate.
- ✓ Don't fertilise until plants or lawn show signs of yellowing
- ✓ Leave grass clippings on the lawn to fertilise naturally, but make sure they can't be washed into drains.
- ✓ Take care with animal manures. Spread thinly and make sure it can't be washed into drains.
- ✓ Choose plants which don't require lots of fertiliser such as local native plants.
- ✓ Use a broom to sweep up leaves. Use them as mulch or add to compost bin.

What we can do when renovating

Never use a stormwater drain to dispose of paint or chemicals. If you have tradespeople working on your house, make sure they do the right thing too.

- ✓ Wash water based paints over grass or sand.
- ✓ Never dispose of paint, turps or solvents down a stormwater drain.
- ✓ To dispose of paint, remove the lid and allow the remaining contents to dry out. When dry, place in your rubbish bin.
- ✓ Don't wash out cement mixers or barrows where the waste can flow into the street.
- ✓ Cover piles of sand or mulch so they don't wash into drains
- ✓ Report dirty building sites to your Local Council.
- ✓ Don't let carpet cleaners discharge into a stormwater drain. They should discharge onto your lawn or into the laundry sink.

What we can do with the car

If you wash your car in the street or on your driveway, detergent, mud, oil and grease can wash directly into the stormwater system.

- ✓ Wash your car on a grassy area or over gravel.
- ✓ If you don't have a suitable area, visit a friend who does.
- ✓ Use a car wash that recycles water.
- ✓ Check for leaks and get them repaired.