

Did you know?

- 95% of the litter on our beaches comes from the stormwater system.
- In every square kilometre of ocean, there are more than 18,000 pieces of plastic.
- Plastic bags can kill sea turtles and other marine life.
- It is not recommended to swim at the beaches immediately after heavy rainfall due to potential increases in pollution.
- Dirty water from your house (kitchen sink, laundry, bathroom sink, toilet and shower) goes to the sewerage treatment plant.



Thanks for helping keep our
coastline clean for everyone.

For more information

Waverley Council – Environmental Services

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ADDRESS PO Box 9 Bondi Junction NSW 1355

To report a pollution incident:

BUSINESS HOURS: Call 9369 8000

AFTER HOURS: Call the Environment Protection
Authority (EPA) Pollution Line 13 1555

Scan here with your smartphone
for more information



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STORMWATER POLLUTION

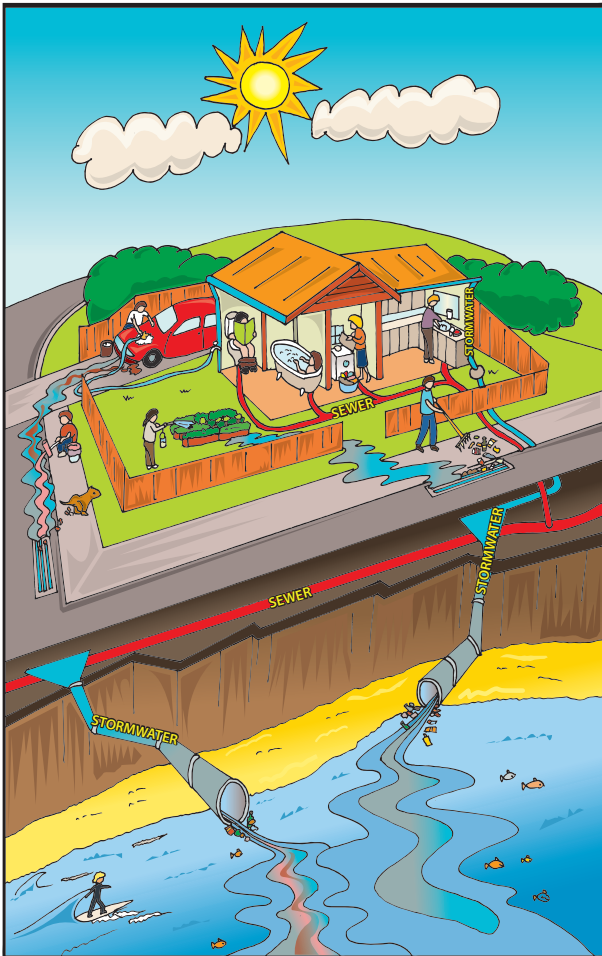
Clean water starts with me!

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater plus anything the rain carries along with it.

In urban areas, rain that falls on rooftops, roads, footpaths, and other hard surfaces as well as parkland, drains to the stormwater system – separate from the sewerage system.

The stormwater goes through a series of underground pipes and open channels that eventually empty into the ocean.



Why care?

Unlike our sewerage system, stormwater is typically untreated. So any pollution that gets carried along with rainwater gets transported to our beaches and coastal waterways.

Pollution poses health risks to people who swim in the ocean and can negatively impact marine animals and plants.

Potential impacts:

- Marine animals can choke on rubbish or get tangled in plastic bags.
- Litter can decompose into harmful chemicals.
- Garden clippings reduce oxygen for marine life.
- Dog droppings and over-fertilising increases nutrients in the ocean.
- Sediment from building sites blocks sunlight required for plants.
- Dirt from soil erosion suffocates fish by clogging their gills.

Main sources of stormwater pollution

- **Litter** – Cigarette butts, plastic, cans and paper
- **Garden clippings** – Lawn cuttings, leaves, twigs
- **Soil and sediment** – Erosion and building sites
- **Soaps** – From cleaning the car or walkway
- **Paints** – From rinsing brushes and palettes
- **Nutrients** – From fertilisers and pet droppings
- **Garden chemicals** – Herbicides and pesticides
- **Oils and grease** – Cooking waste products
- **Bacteria & viruses** – Faecal bacteria and viruses from human waste and pet droppings

How can you help keep stormwater clean?

It's simple. The most effective way to reduce stormwater pollution is to stop it entering the drain in the first place.

Top 10 easy tips

1. Sweep gutters and driveways rather than hose them down the drain.
2. Put leaves and grass clippings in a compost bin.
3. Wash car on grass with a small amount of soap and pour waste water down the sink or onto the grass.
4. Check car regularly for leaks and repair them.
5. Scoop up your dog's droppings in your garden and public spaces and dispose in rubbish bins.
6. Put cigarette butts and all litter in waste bins.
7. Follow fertiliser instructions to avoid over-fertilising.
8. Sweep up fertiliser bits on the footpath and dispose in rubbish bins.
9. Dispose of oil-based paint at Chemical Cleanout events.
10. Rinse water-based paint in a sink or on the grass.

