



WATER POLLUTION

ROOF CLEANING AND RESTORATION

Wastewater from roof cleaning flows directly into our creeks, rivers and waterways. This affects water quality and can be harmful to fish and wildlife.

The effects of roof cleaning on storm water

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

The Law

Under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*, allowing polluted wastewater to enter stormwater drains and roadside gutters and waterways is an offence and may attract fines or prosecution.

Protecting the environment

We all share responsibility of keeping our waterways clean by making sure only clean water enters our stormwater systems. Steps you can take when cleaning:

- 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 where cleaning – feed the wastewater onto lawns or gardens.
- a hole may be drilled in the gutter, downpipes blocked and water diverted to garden beds. When complete, plug the hole with a grommet.
- 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 to direct to lawns or gardens, making sure 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 remaining waste materials down the stormwater drain.

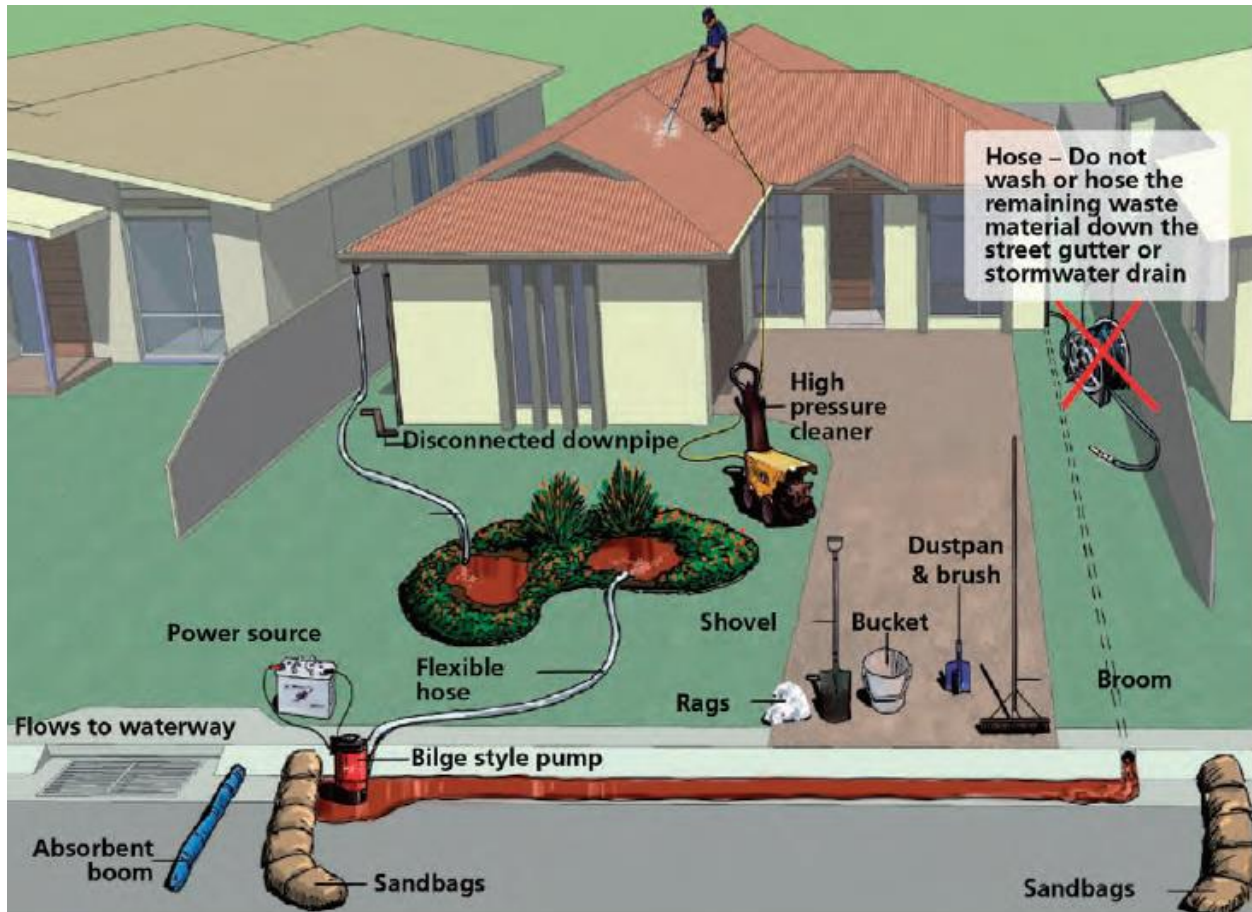


Wastewater residues left in a roadside gutter



Wastewater pollutants flowing into waterways affect aquatic plants and marine life

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 1300 79 49 29.

Additional information about water quality can be found on Council's website:
www.frasercoast.qld.gov.au/water-quality

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