

Take this Simple Action

Report Stormwater Pollution

Call your local council and report **what you saw** or smelt, **where and when** you noticed it and what you suspect is **the cause**.

Local Council	Contact
City of Armadale	9399 0111
City of Belmont	9477 7222
City of Canning	9231 0606
City of Cockburn	9411 3444
Town of East Fremantle	9339 9339
City of Fremantle	9432 9999
City of Gosnells	9397 3000
Shire of Kalamunda	9257 9999
Town of Kwinana	9439 0200
City of Melville	1300 635 845
City of Rockingham	9528 0333
City of South Perth	9474 0777
Town of Victoria Park	9311 8111

CLEAN DRAINS RIVER GAINS

A simple 30 second phone call or email (from your local council website) will help bring attention to this very important water quality and river health issue.

Prevention is Better than Cure

Do you know that the drains outside our homes and businesses are really an extension of our rivers and wetlands?

Whatever we allow to enter stormwater drains will find its way into the natural environment, often with serious consequences.



Preventing stormwater pollution is not a difficult task, simple changes to the way you do everyday tasks will make a big difference. This pamphlet will help you recognise the positive steps you can take to keep our rivers healthy.

Produced for the 'Clean Drains River Gains' campaign by the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare

SERCUL

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CLEAN DRAINS RIVER GAINS



**Practical steps
you can take
to prevent
stormwater
pollution**



What is stormwater?



Our stormwater drainage system was built to carry clean rainwater away from our homes. Stormwater pollution refers to a range of materials that contaminates the rainwater.

Unfortunately drains are very efficient at

transporting these contaminants quickly from the street to the river and wetlands. It is often lots of small, everyday actions that add up to a big problem for our environment.



Dead wildlife, algal blooms, oil slicks, dangerous litter and visual scarring of beautiful landscapes are a reminder of the effects of stormwater pollution.

Stormwater pollution includes:

- Lawn clippings and other garden waste
- Leaves from deciduous trees
- General household rubbish
- Bread and other food fed to water birds
- Detergents and cleaning products
- Oils and petrol
- Fertilisers and garden chemicals
- Dog poo
- Paints and industrial chemicals
- Building sand and soil



What does stormwater pollution do to our waterways?

Algal Blooms

- Kills aquatic animals and plants by starving them of oxygen
- Can be toxic
- Is unsightly and foul smelling
- Prevents recreational use of rivers.



Chemicals

- Detergents destroy the protective barrier on frogs skin
- Oils will clog feathers, fur and gills
- Pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals contain toxins that build up in the environment.



Sediment and Garden Waste

- Sand and soil block light needed by aquatic plants
- Can clog waterways
- Garden wastes break down quickly, using up oxygen that animals need to breathe.



Litter

- Scars our beautiful landscape
- Is dangerous to wildlife.



How can I reduce my impact?

Preventing stormwater pollution is not a difficult task, simple changes to the way you do everyday tasks will make a big difference.

Around the Home or Office

- Wash your car on the lawn
- Dispose of paints, chemicals and oils carefully
- Keep your car well serviced, to prevent oil leaks
- Use phosphorus free detergents
- Ensure rubbish stays in the bin
- Wash your dog on the lawn



In the Garden

- Fertilise Wise - only fertilise when symptoms of nutrient deficiency occur e.g. yellowing
- Avoid planting deciduous trees or shrubs
- Sweep up grass clippings on the verge and road
- Prevent soil, leaves and mulch from being blown onto the road
- Plant local native plants instead of water and nutrient hungry species
- Compost garden wastes and recycle the nutrients.

At Work

- Ensure all waste goes into an approved sewer outlet, not the stormwater drain
- Chemicals and wastes should be kept in a secure, bunded area away from stormwater drains
- Relocate work activities that include chemicals away from stormwater drains
- Have an emergency spill response plan
- Handle chemicals and fuels with care

Out and About

- Do not feed the birds. It is bad for their health and the water
- Please pick up your dogs poo, it is high in nutrients.
- Always put rubbish in the bin or recycle it.