

# Why should I care about Stormwater Pollution?

## What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is rain that falls on roofs or paved areas like driveways, roads and footpaths. This water is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes that is separate from the sewage system. It eventually ends up in our rivers and the ocean.

## Why is stormwater pollution an important issue that I need to care about?

As stormwater travels over the land, it picks up all kinds of chemicals and materials that are not naturally found in our waterways. Some are toxic even in small amounts. Others, such as nutrients, are not poisonous but may be produced in such great quantities that nature can't cope. This results in pollution of our waterways that can kill plants and animals that live in the water. Pollution of our waterways can also mean we can't boat, swim or fish because it is unpleasant or even unsafe.

## What is in stormwater pollution?

Rubbish and pollution gets washed into our waterways:

- 'Natural' pollution such as dog droppings, leaves and garden clippings
- Chemical pollution such as car washing detergents and fertilisers
- Litter

## What is being done to stop stormwater pollution?

In 1997, the State Government committed \$60 million over three years to tackle stormwater pollution. Some of it goes to fund local projects, including building 'pollution traps' which catch pollution before it has a chance to enter the waterways.

Councils and the EPA are also undertaking education campaigns to prevent the pollution going down the drain in the first place.



For further details contact:

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THE DRAIN IS JUST FOR RAIN

