

MOSS, MOULD REMOVER AND BIODEGRADABLE DETERGENTS

Moss and mould removers left on surfaces can later discharge to the natural environment from rain and have a negative effect on our environment by killing aquatic life.

Note that even biodegradable detergents pollute the environment. They quickly remove oxygen from the water when they break down, which depletes oxygen for aquatic life. Biodegradable products are not permitted to enter the stormwater system.



QUICK TIPS

When using moss and mould remover and biodegradable detergents:

- treat them like any other potentially harmful chemical
- do not wash them down off surfaces without controls in place
- ensure they do not enter the stormwater system
- do not apply them when rain is forecast.

THE LAW

In New Zealand the Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is a law designed to protect our environment. In Whangārei it is illegal for any substance to be discharged into natural water, the stormwater system, land, or air unless authorised by a resource consent or a district or regional plan. Polluters can be fined up to \$1000, issued abatement notices or prosecuted and fined up to \$600,000 for breaching the RMA.

REMEMBER

- Outside drains discharge untreated water straight to the local stream or beach.
- Biodegradable products are still considered a pollutant and all washwater must not enter the stormwater system.
- Plan ahead and install controls before works start.
- Disconnect or block off downpipes and divert runoff to unsealed ground.

All outside drains are for rainwater only and drain straight into the local stream or the sea!

For any illegal discharges, phone our
24/7 Environmental Hotline
0800 504 639

To speak to one of our Environmental
Monitoring Officers, phone **0800 002 004**

PREVENTING POLLUTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT

Waterblasting



COMMON WATERBLASTING ACTIVITIES AND CONTAMINANTS

It is illegal and harmful to discharge waterblasting waste into the stormwater system as it can negatively affect the quality of our environment. It is your responsibility to prevent unlawful discharges from your waterblasting activities. Make sure you put appropriate controls in place before you start.



Waterblasting waste can have harmful effects on our aquatic life

Waterblasting waste is much more concentrated than runoff caused by rain. If you are waterblasting a surface, it is because rain alone could not clean it. Therefore, all contaminants such as grime, algae, moss, mould, lichen, sediment, grease, paint chips and dirt must not enter the stormwater system as it may affect aquatic life. Exposing aggregate also discharges a toxic high pH wastewater due to the lime content of cement.

GOOD PRACTICE



If you are required to waterblast a roof, you must ensure that no contaminants enter the stormwater system through downpipes. Either disconnect the downpipes and divert to unsealed ground, or block them off using rubber bungs or other devices and remove the washwater out of the guttering.

Block catchpit outfalls and use a pump or bucket to remove the wastewater to unsealed ground or a container/drum. Alternatively have a sucker truck remove the wastewater.

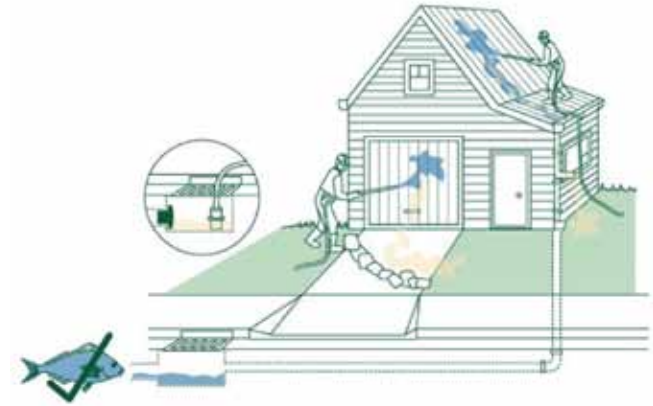


QUICK TIP

Control options may include downpipe diversion devices, wetvac hire, sand socks, drain mats or other equipment required to ensure environmental compliance.



Stormwater controls can be as simple as diverting wash water away from stormwater drains to unsealed ground with reusable sandbags or sand socks.



Only clean rainwater should enter our stormwater drains