

Business Pollution Prevention Fact sheet

Garbage and loading docks

It is against the law to pollute water or place pollution in a position where it is likely to be blown, fall or leak into a drain, gutter or local waterway. The maximum penalty for companies is \$5 million. Ensure that you are aware of your legal responsibilities.

Garbage and loading areas have the potential to contribute towards stormwater pollution. Actions to prevent stormwater pollution in garbage or loading areas include:

- An easily accessible spill kit placed near the area for quick management of spills
- Covered or locked bins to prevent rubbish being blown around the area
- Appropriate training of staff in spill management
- Ensure any waste water generated from washing or cleaning activities in this area is directed to sewer or collected and disposed of appropriately

Shopfront, dining and/or high traffic pedestrian areas

The presentation of a business including the cleanliness of the shopfront, dining and high pedestrian areas can influence the opinion of customers. Some practices for keeping these areas clean without causing water pollution include:

- Sweeping hard surfaces instead of hosing. If washing is required minimise the water used by cleaning with a mop and bucket and disposing of the waste water to sewer. Do not allow waste water to enter stormwater drains.
- When cleaning shopfront walls and windows use only a dry brush to clear away any solid material and dust, collect and dispose in a waste bin. Instead of hosing use a mop/squeegee and a bucket to clean down surfaces and dispose of the waste water to sewer.
- If you hire others to do the cleaning, ensure they do not allow any of the waste water generated by their activities to enter stormwater drains. Encourage them to use methods that reduce water and detergent use.

Litter prevention and control

Dispose of all litter in a container or bin and encourage customers and staff to do the same. Ensure rubbish/waste bins have a lid and are kept closed to prevent waste material getting wet or blown around by the wind.

Garden and Lawns

If your business has a garden or lawn to maintain here are a few tips to prevent pollution:

- After mowing ensure grass clippings are collected and prevented from entering stormwater drains.
- Minimise the use of pesticides and herbicides. If you need to apply these chemicals, avoid application before rain (Check weather forecast beforehand). The chemicals in these substances can cause significant impacts on aquatic life in the city's creeks, harbour and beaches.
- Overwatering causes runoff that can then transport pollutants to a waterway via the stormwater system, it is also a waste of water.

