



Stormwater Management

for Roof Restorers

EPA 544/04—April 2004

Why do I need this information?

This information for owners and operators of mobile roof restoration businesses aims to help you identify and manage potential stormwater pollution problems at your work sites.

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* requires that you undertake activities in a way that ensures stormwater is protected from pollutants such as chemical cleaning agents, paint and contaminated water.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that flows over outside surfaces into gutters and stormwater drains in the street. Unlike the sewerage system wastewater, this water is not treated and flows directly to our creeks, rivers, groundwaters and oceans. Stormwater should only contain clean rainwater and *no* pollutants.

Benefits for you and your business

By addressing potential stormwater pollution problems at your work site you:

- minimise the risk of environmental fines and prosecutions
- demonstrate compliance with the Environment Protection Authority's codes of practice
- improve your business profile
- make long-term financial savings by reducing costs and improving efficiency
- increase customer satisfaction and patronage
- improve environmental conditions for everyone.

What legislation governs stormwater pollution?

The stormwater system is protected by a number of different laws including the *Environment Protection Act 1993* (the Act), the *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* (the Water Quality Policy), the *Local Government Act 1934*, the *Development Act 1993* and the *Public and Environmental Health Act 1987*.

The Water Quality Policy offers the most specific protection for the state's waters. It prohibits the pollution of the stormwater system and our natural waterways. The Water Quality Policy has general obligations with which every person, business and industry must comply, as well as specific obligations for particular activities. Failure to comply with any of these obligations may result in a \$300 fine, Environment Protection Order, and/or prosecution.

Clause 17 of the Water Quality Policy states that *a person must not discharge or deposit a pollutant listed in Schedule 4 of the policy into any water or onto land where it might enter any waters*. The pollutants listed in Schedule 4 that relate to mobile roof restoration businesses include:

- cleaning agents
- roof cleaning waste.

For more information on the Water Quality Policy visit the EPA web site at www.epa.sa.gov.au or telephone (08) 8204 2004.

Identifying potential pollution problems

Roof restoration involves a combination of activities such as high-pressure cleaning, repairs and painting, all of which pose a pollution risk to the stormwater system if they are not properly managed.

Discharging wastewater and materials washed from roofs into the stormwater system releases the following pollutants into waterways:

- chemicals and other additives used in the cleaning solution
- materials removed from the cleaning surface (e.g. dirt, sludge, bird faeces)
- compounds produced from reactions between the cleaning solution and materials removed from the roof
- mains water containing chemicals such as chlorine.

Identify all stormwater entry points at each work site. Is any contaminated wastewater draining directly into the stormwater system? Can you change your work practices to ensure this doesn't occur?

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

- Disconnect all downpipes and divert all wastewater to an appropriate on-site soakage area (e.g. lawn or garden).
- If the downpipes cannot be disconnected, use a catchment mat to collect all wastewater and store it in a holding tank for off-site disposal at a liquid waste treatment facility.
- Minimise the volume of water used during the pressure cleaning operation by recycling and reusing it.
- Do not carry out high-pressure cleaning or spray painting on windy days when spray drift can contaminate surfaces in the area and contribute to polluted rain water.
- Collect and store any solid residues from die cleaning in a sealed container and dispose of them at an appropriate waste facility.
- Ensure each mobile operation is equipped with a spill response kit and materials to clean up or contain any accidental discharges. If you cannot clean up the spill, make immediate arrangements with an organisation that can undertake the task.
- Educate all operators/franchisees on the correct work site practices and wastewater disposal methods to help them comply with regulations and legislation.

Occupational health, safety & welfare

Under the *Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act 1986* it is prohibited to use a high-pressure process, in excess of 200 kPa, to clean material that consists of or contains asbestos.

A high-pressure process includes the use of air, water or any other material or substance under pressure for the purpose of cleaning asbestos material.

The information contained in this document is from a series of fact sheets developed by the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Projects.

Visit www.catchments.net/initiatives/initiatives_stormwater.shtml for more information on stormwater issues.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Legislation

Legislation may be viewed on the Internet at: www.parliament.sa.gov.au/dbsearch/legsearch.htm

Copies of legislation are available for purchase from:

Government Information Centre
Lands Titles Office, 101 Grenfell Street
Adelaide SA 5000

Telephone: 13 23 24
Internet: shop.service.sa.gov.au

For general information please contact:

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
Adelaide SA 5001
E-mail: epainfo@epa.sa.gov.au

Telephone: (08) 8204 2004
Facsimile: (08) 8204 9393
Freecall (country): 1800 623 445
Internet: www.epa.sa.gov.au
