



Stormwater Management

for Mobile Waste Bin Cleaners

EPA 546/04—April 2004

Why do I need this information?

This information for owners and operators of mobile waste bin cleaning businesses aims to improve your ability to 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 organic or inorganic rubbish, residual chemicals, and chlorine from mains 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 workplace you:

- minimise the risk of environmental fine and prosecutions
- demonstrate compliance with the Environment Protection Authority's codes of practice
- improve your business profile
- make long-term financial savings by reducing cost 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 waters or onto land where it might enter any waters*. The pollutants listed in Schedule 4 that relate to bin cleaning activities include:

- cleaning agents
- detergents and their by-products
- putrescible waste (e.g. food scraps)
- rubbish.

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

The cleaning of bins produces two broad types of wastes:

- **solids**—typically including paper, garden refuse, food product wastes, sediment (organic and inorganic), animal and bird faeces, and general rubbish like plastic bags.
- **wastewater**—including residual chemicals, materials removed from the target surfaces, and mains water containing chemicals such as chlorine.

Both solids and wastewater can enter stormwater systems if they are not disposed of in an appropriate way. Many options are available to collect, contain, store and transport liquid and solid wastes generated by the pressure cleaning of waste bins:

- purpose-built systems
- self-contained water-wise cleaning equipment
- wet vacuum systems
- catchment mats
- filtration and recirculation systems.

Check your equipment and waste storage or discharge methods. Is contaminated water from your bin cleaning activities draining into the stormwater system? Can you change your work practices to ensure this doesn't happen?

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

- Collect solid matter and wastewater from internal bin cleaning and store them in an appropriate container in the mobile bin cleaning unit.
- Ensure no waste escapes to the stormwater system during transport.
- Take all stored liquid and solid wastes to a licensed disposal, treatment or storage facility, or discharge waste liquid into the sewer, in accordance with SA Water Trade Waste requirements (for details telephone 8207 1350 or fax 8207 1361).
- Wash the outside surfaces of the bin in an appropriate soakage area (e.g. lawn or verge) and ensure that no water run-off can escape to the stormwater system.

Educate your employees/franchisees on proper wastewater disposal methods and provide incentives to ensure that these practices are carried out in the field.

High-pressure water jetting systems standards

The Australian and New Zealand Standard for the safe operation and maintenance of high-pressure water jetting systems outlines safe operating practices to protect and safeguard equipment, users and other people who may be nearby.

All waste bin cleaners using high-pressure water jetting systems should be working to the Standard (AS/NZS 4233.1 (1999)). Call Standards Australia on 1300 654 646 for the latest Standards information, or visit their web site: www.standards.com.au

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

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