



Stormwater Management

for Marinas, Boat Sheds and Slipways

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Why do I need this information?

This information for people working in the boating and marine industry aims to help you identify and manage potential stormwater pollution problems at your facilities.

The people and places that may need to read this guideline include:

- marinas
- boat sheds
- slipway yards
- boating operators.

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* requires that you undertake activities in a way that ensures stormwater is protected from pollutants such as anti-fouling and lead based paints, oils, grease, solvents and general rubbish.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rainwater that flows over outside surfaces into stormwater drains and gutters in the street. 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 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.



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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 waters. 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 Part 1 of Schedule 4 of the Policy into any waters or onto land where it might enter any waters*. The pollutants listed in Schedule 4, Part 1 that relate to the boating and marina industry include:

- paint and paint scrapings
- hard waste (for example, tyres, batteries, metal parts, piping)
- oil, grease and lubricants
- solvents
- high-pressure water blasting 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

Boat yards, slipways and marinas pose a significant potential pollution risk to the stormwater system due to the nature of products used, the activities occurring at the location and their proximity to waterways. These varied activities—including a mechanical workshop, boat cleaning and construction—use anti-fouling and lead based products, oils, grease, solvents and detergents on a daily basis. These pollutants can be easily picked up by clean water and discharged into stormwater drains.

Think about the areas where clean water has the potential to mix with pollutants. Is the contaminated water draining directly into the stormwater system or into an approved treatment system? Can you change your work practices to ensure that stormwater is not contaminated by pollutants?

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

- Make sure all boat repair and maintenance work is done on an impervious surface that cannot be flooded during high tide.
- Regularly clean and maintain your work areas. Make sure no particles or wastewater from cleaning or maintenance work fall or drain into stormwater, foreshores or the marine environment.
- Install drains or bunds and where possible, cover or roof your work areas to prevent stormwater becoming contaminated.
- Install a first-flush stormwater collection system that will capture the first 20 mm of rainfall over the entire catchment area. Direct this first flush into a holding tank and dispose of it to the sewer in accordance with SA Water Trade Wastes Section requirements.
- Follow a regular maintenance program to ensure the effectiveness of measures designed to minimise pollution of the stormwater system.

Boat washing

To prevent pollutants from the cleaning of boats and motors discharging to stormwater and waterways:

- Wipe as much oil, fuel and dirt from the motor as possible before rinsing.
- Wash or rinse outboard motors in a work area where the runoff drains to a pit and the wastewater can be properly treated, reused or disposed of to a trade waste system.
- Where possible, rinse boat decks with water only. This may mean more frequent rinsing to avoid dirt and grime build up.
- If using detergent, stop sudsy water from washing off the deck by washing with a mop and collecting the wastewater in a bucket. Empty the wastewater onto a landscaped area (where it cannot enter the stormwater system or natural waters) or into the sewer.

Mechanical repairs and maintenance

- Repair and maintain engines and motor parts in a workshop area with facilities that collect and treat degreasers, solvents and other wastewater.
- Do not clean or repair engines or parts in outdoor areas where contaminants can pollute the ground, the foreshore or waterways.

Maintenance of vessels on slipways and dry docks

Slipways and other hard-stand areas that are used for cleaning, repairing and maintaining vessels need control measures to prevent pollution of stormwater and the marine environment.

- Provide slipways with a permanent catch drain, located above the high-tide level. The drain collects residues and then directs any paints, waste liquids and solids to a collection pit via a silt trap. The collected contaminated wastewater must not be discharged to the stormwater system or marine environment. It may be directed to the sewer but only in accordance with the requirements of the SA Water Trade Wastes Section—telephone 8207 1350, fax 8207 1361.
- Do any slipway work (including hull blasting and wet rubbing) above the catch drain to ensure that any wastes drain into it.
- Bund and grade the maintenance area so that any pollution can be contained and collected.
- Make the collection pits large enough to hold the first flush of contaminated stormwater, or the expected volume of wastewater from wet cleaning processes, whichever is greater.
- Do not use high-pressure liquid cleaners—using water, detergents, solvents, caustic or acids—where untreated wastes can enter the stormwater and waterways.

In-water hull cleaning

Cleaning a boat while it is in the water not only releases heavy metals into the marine environment but also increases the danger of marine pests invading the state's waters. For these reasons in-water hull cleaning is prohibited, except under extraordinary circumstances when permission is granted from the administering authority. Approval for in-water hull cleaning has only been given by the EPA for small sections of vessel hulls such as propellers, where all material is practicably able to be collected for disposal.

Clause 22 of the Water Quality Policy requires that a person using an antifoulant follow the *Code of Practice for Antifouling and In-water Hull Cleaning and Maintenance 1997* (prepared by ANZECC).

Clause 22 also states that:

(4) A person must, in using an antifoulant, or removing an antifoulant from any surface, comply with the following provisions;

(c) the cleaning of the hull of a vessel or the surface of any structure that has been coated with an antifoulant, or of any equipment contaminated with antifoulant, may only be carried out:

(i) in dry dock; or

(ii) above the high water mark of any waters; or

(iii) below the high water mark of any waters while the tide is out to such an extent that there is not tidal water coming into contact with the vessel, structure or equipment.

Bilge waters

Discourage boat owners from discharging contaminated bilge water to the environment. Promote the use of oil-absorbent products on all vessels with inboard motors. For example, absorbent pillows that retain oil, but not water, can reduce oily water discharges from bilge pumps.

Water use

Water is one of our most valuable natural resources. Water supply organisations in South Australia have begun to implement a 'user pays' system to promote water conservation and to better reflect the true cost of water collection, storage and supply services.

The boating and marina industry can save money and have a positive impact on the environment by introducing a water efficiency program, starting with a water audit to determine how much water your business uses, where there are water leaks, and what systems and equipment could be put in place to reduce your water use.

For information on the current level of water restrictions visit the SA Water web site at www.sawater.com.au or telephone 1800 130 952.

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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