



Stormwater Management

for Mobile Dog Washing Units

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Why do I need this information?

This information for owners and operators of mobile dog washing units aims to improve your ability to identify and manage potential stormwater pollution problems at your worksite.

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* requires that you undertake activities in a way that ensures stormwater is protected from pollutants—dog hair, cleaning chemicals such as flea rinses, and sediment.

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 and other environmental 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 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 waters or onto land where it might enter any waters*. The pollutants listed in Schedule 4 that relate to mobile dog washing activities include:

- chemicals designed for human or animal therapeutic use
- washdown from cleaning animals or animal enclosures
- animal faeces.

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 washing and grooming activities of mobile dog washing units can pollute the water environments if contaminated water and other wastes are discharged into the stormwater system.

Wastewater should be disposed of to the sewerage system or allowed to soak into the ground/garden; stored liquid and solid wastes should be collected by a licensed waste transport business. Other waste products such as dog hair/fur, nails and other sediment must not be washed into the stormwater system.

Check your equipment and wastewater storage or discharge methods. Is contaminated wastewater draining into the stormwater system? Can you change your work practices to ensure any pollutants are contained and disposed of where they cannot enter the stormwater system?

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution

- Only operate your washing unit in an area where wastewater can soak into the ground or garden to ensure that wastewater does not run into the gutter or stormwater drain.
- Only use cleaning solutions including flea rinses where the wastewater can be emptied into the sewer in accordance with the requirements of SA Water Trade Wastes Section. For details telephone (08) 8207 1350 or fax (08) 8207 1361.
- All stored liquid and solid waste should be collected by a licensed waste transport business and taken to a licensed disposal, treatment or storage facility.
- All waste products, such as dog hair or fur, nails, dirt and sediment associated with washing and grooming a dog should be kept within the washing unit. Do not empty them into the stormwater drain.
- When washing a dog outside, avoid using cleaning solutions with flea rinse. Such solutions are pesticides. Even biodegradable ones can cause environmental harm if they enter stormwater systems, streams, rivers and ultimately the ocean. The term 'biodegradable' refers to the ability of a material to be broken down into various compounds by a group of biological organisms called decomposers. This can change materials within biodegradable products into a form that can be taken up and used by organisms, thus causing an imbalance of the aquatic ecosystem, or excessive algal growth.
- DO NOT USE flea rinses containing diazinon, chlorpyrifos or any anticholinesterase. These do not break down in the sewage treatment process—they build up in the environment. Half a teaspoon of these compounds can kill everything in an area of water the size of an Olympic swimming pool.

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

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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