



Stormwater Management

for Laundries and Dry Cleaning Premises

EPA 519/04—April 2004

Why do I need this information?

This information aims to help you identify and manage potential stormwater pollution problems at your laundry or dry cleaning facility.

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

- commercial laundries
- dry cleaners
- laundromats
- laundries in nursing homes, hospitals and hotels.

The *Environment Protection (Water Quality) Policy 2003* requires you to undertake activities in a way that ensures stormwater is protected from pollutants such as grease and oil, dye coloured discharges, suspended solids.

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 your potential for environmental fines and prosecutions
- demonstrate compliance with the Environment Protection Authority's codes of practice
- improve your businesses profile
- make long-term cost savings by increasing efficiency and reducing costs
- increase customer 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 *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 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 laundries and dry cleaners include:

- cleaning agents
- detergents and their by-products
- oil, grease or lubricants
- solvents
- steam cleaning waste
- general 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.

What can you do to prevent stormwater pollution?

Laundries

- Wastewater generated by laundries should be discharged in accordance with current regulations and not directly into the stormwater system.
- The minimum treatment required for small laundries (one or two domestic washing machines) is that each machine be fitted with a lint trap.
- The minimum treatment required for laundromats and medium sized laundries (those with more than two domestic machines) is for wastewater to be discharged through:
 - a 225-mm diameter silt trap fitted with a stainless steel basket of 5 mm mesh or a bucket with 3 mm drilled holes
 - a channel fitted with a series of screens, the last of which has a 5 mm mesh, discharging to a 225 mm silt trap.

A balancing tank may be required downstream of the trap or channel to buffer peaks in flow, temperature and pH of discharges.

- The minimum treatment required for laundries discharging over 3000 kL of wastewater to the sewer per annum is that the wastewater will discharge through a series of 10 mm and 5 mm screens, or other approved screening system, to a settling tank of a volume equal to the maximum output of the laundry for one hour (one hour's minimum hydraulic retention time).
- Depending on the washing process, operators may also be required to install:
 - grease and oil separation equipment
 - additional apparatus to reduce suspended solids
 - automatic pH control
 - apparatus to reduce the temperature of the waste stream

- apparatus to remove unacceptable dye materials
- equipment to control the rate of discharge to the sewer.

Dry cleaners

- No solid or liquid waste generated by dry cleaning processes may be discharged to the sewer or the stormwater system. This waste should be appropriately stored and collected by a licensed liquid waste contractor. The wastes include:
 - waste solvent
 - contaminated filter material
 - waste produced by the stripping and cleaning of dry cleaning machines or associated equipment.
- Wastewater from associated processes, such as cooling water or boiler blowdown, may be discharged to the sewer providing all SA Water requirements are met.
- All tanks and containers storing process liquors, wastewater and chemical solutions must be bunded (see EPA Guideline *Bunding and spill management—EPA 080/04*).

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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