Stormwater Management
for Printers

Why do printers need this information?
These guidelines for printers provide information to increase your stormwater management awareness and strengthen your knowledge. They will help you to manage potential stormwater pollution prevention problems at your printing workshop.

What is stormwater?
Stormwater is rainwater that flows across outside surfaces into stormwater drains and gutters in the street. The water is not treated and flows directly to our creeks, rivers, groundwaters and oceans. Stormwater should only contain clean rainwater, and no pollutants such as general rubbish, industrial waste, heavy metals, oils and greases.

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 all employees.
All owners and operators should ensure they know their legal obligations regarding water, air and noise pollution, and about handling their waste and hazardous materials; telephone the Environment Protection Authority on 8204 2004.

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 new 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 Policy has general obligations
which every person, business and industry must comply with as well as specific obligations for particular activities. Failure to comply with any of these obligations may result in the issuing of a $300 fine, Environment Protection Order, and/or prosecution.

Clause 17 (1) 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 which relate to printers include: cleaning agents; detergents and their by-products; paint and paint scrapings; painting washwater; paint stripping waste; petroleum products; photographic chemicals; and solvents.

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 stop stormwater pollution?**

Many printing activities could pollute stormwater.

*The first step is to ensure that stormwater does not get contaminated.* Think about all your work practices and ensure that none lead to contamination of water that runs out into stormwater drains. Inspect the uncovered areas of your workplace: when it rains, will the rainwater become contaminated before it gets to the stormwater drain? Hosing outdoor surfaces and printing screens into the stormwater system is a common source of pollutants from printers. Paint wastewater and washwaters should not be discharged into the stormwater system.

**Preventing stormwater pollution**

- Dispose of cleaning water from water-based paint to the sewer, or divert it to a contained area lined with newspaper. Place the newspaper with paint residue in a solid waste bin when it is dry. Material used to clean up oil-based paints should be filtered for reuse of the solvent or taken to an authorised waste depot licensed to accept these wastes. Place the paint residue after filtering in a solid waste bin.

- Prevent any washing water from entering stormwater drains. Detergents usually contain phosphates which, when transported through the stormwater system, cause problems in our waterways, such as excess algal growth and toxic algal blooms. Confine your washing and cleaning to a contained or bunded (raised edge) area where the wastewater is directed to the sewer. Using biodegradable phosphate detergents is only of benefit to the environment if detergent wastewater is directed to the sewage system and the treated effluent is reused to grow plants. Discuss alternatives with the Trades Wastes section of SA Water, which will provide technical advice and options for appropriately collecting, storing, and disposing of liquid wastes.

- Do not hose the work floor or forecourt unless all water is collected and directed through an approved trade waste system. Try sweeping or vacuuming the area, using absorbent materials to remove most grime and solvent on a rag to remove the rest. The drains inside your premises should all be connected to the sewer. Don’t allow any liquid wastes, process water or washwater from your business to enter the stormwater system. Any discharges to the sewer must be in accordance with the requirements of the SA Water Trade Wastes section—telephone 8207 1350, fax 8207 1361.

**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.

Printers can save money and have a positive impact on the environment by implementing a water efficiency program, starting with a water audit which will 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 further information, please contact SA Water on (08) 8207 1350.

The information 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
Telephone: 13 23 24
Internet: www.info.sa.gov.au

For general information please contact:

Environment Protection Authority
GPO Box 2607
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Freecall (country): 1800 623 445
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