



EROSION & SEDIMENT CONTROL

FOR NEW HOME OWNERS & RENOVATORS

STOP STORMWATER POLLUTION.

Help protect our waterways, prevent sand, silt, mud
& other pollutant's leaving your home site.

Home owners and renovators are responsible!

STORMWATER RUN OFF- containing sediment (sand, silt, & mud) litter, cement waste, chemicals & nutrients (eg. Fertilizers, detergents, & animal droppings) can cause serious environmental harm when they reach our waterways. Polluted stormwater run-off can kill all aquatic life, contribute to algal blooms and increase weed growth in our waterways.

NEW BUILT HOMES- are at particular risk of creating stormwater pollution. This is due to the amount of exposed soil present until landscaping has been carried out. Avoid this problem and possibly a fine, by asking your builder to leave **the erosion and sediment controls** in place after house construction or until landscaping is completed. When the builder hands over the house to you, ask what you need to do to ensure sediment and other pollutants do not leave the property while the soil is exposed.

HOME RENOVATORS- also have the potential to create a stormwater pollution problem when either minor or major works are carried out. Building works can expose soil and generate sediment, cement waste, litter, building rubble & paint waste (from washing brushes). When it rains, these materials can easily wash into the stormwater system. If appropriate control measures are not in place, the health of our local waterways can be affected. **You could also be fined.**

What can happen if you do not prevent sediment or other pollutants? leaving your property.

You will be polluting our waterways and could be liable for an on-the-spot fine of \$300 to \$600. Council officers will regularly visit new and existing home sites to ensure adequate stormwater pollution controls are in place. Always take precautions to prevent polluted stormwater run-off from leaving your property.

Other things you can do to help protect our waterways.

Everyone can help keep our waterways pollution free and protect the environment by following these golden rules:-

- *Wash your car on the grass and not the street or driveway.
- *Always put litter in the bin and place grass clippings and kitchen scraps in covered compost bin.
- *Use fertilizers, herbicides & insecticides carefully.
- *Seal dog droppings in a bag and deposit this in your wheelie bin
- *Don't pour oil, paint, cleaners or chemicals down the stormwater drains.

Note; Diagrams and selected photos courtesy of Catchments & Creeks Pty Ltd
Note: Selected written material courtesy of Brisbane City Council
& Environmental Protection Agency.

Stormwater is not wastewater

Stormwater is not treated before it enters our creeks

HOW CAN YOU PREVENT SEDIMENT OR OTHER POLLUTANTS ENTERING THE STORMWATER DRAIN?

Avoid hosing down newly concreted areas if water run-off could flow into gutters and stormwater drains.

Use fertilisers sparingly. Only fertilise gardens when there is a minimal chance of rain and do not over-water where it can wash into the gutter and stormwater drains.

When settling in newly top-dressed areas, use water sparingly to minimise sediment run-off.

Move piles of soil, sand and gra away from hard surfaces such as or footpaths where the rain can them into the stormwater system Place stockpiles on a grassed area or behind a sediment fence.

Use a broom to clean roadside gutters or areas that slope to the road rather than a hose.

Sediment controls involve installing a sediment fence (not shade cloth) along the lower side of the soil disturbance area - on or inside your property boundary. Sediment fences help reduce the risk of soil being washed away by rain. Sediment fences require regular maintenance. You can purchase materials for sediment fences from hardware or building

supply stores or contact a specialised sediment control contractor. Your builder can also provide further information on installing a sediment fence.

Turf strips or existing grassed areas on the footpath can minimise sediment run-off from these areas. To prevent sediment from entering the roadside gutter, it is best to use a sediment fence with turf strips or grass. Generally turf strips or grassed areas are not effective on their own. To maintain healthy grass, avoid driving or parking on these areas where possible.

Dispose of cement waste and water from washed paint brushes onto grassed or vegetated areas. Do not dispose down gutters or stormwater drains.

Stabilise all driveways and parking areas against erosion as soon as possible. This will prevent soil being carried by vehicles or washing onto the road and into the stormwater drain. Coarse gravel can be used for temporary stabilisation.

