

## Why the environment matters

The work you do can have an impact on the environment, especially rivers and streams. Paint and the wash water created when cleaning up is extremely toxic to waterway ecology.

It is everyone's responsibility to protect the environment, so it's there for our future generations to enjoy.



## Why is clean stormwater important?

Stormwater (from roofs, roads, driveways and parks) is carried via gutters and drains into a network of underground pipes (stormwater system) and discharged untreated into local streams and rivers.

Dirty and polluted water affects plant and animal life in waterways (insects, fish, eels and birds). It can also affect drinking water supplies and recreational users of water such as swimmers, kayakers, fishers and boaties.



## Where can you get more information?

Environment Canterbury offers free advice through its Pollution Prevention Programme.

You can ask for advice during normal working hours and if you join the pollution prevention programme you could save time and money.

Visit our website, email or call us for further assistance on reducing your environmental risk.



Online Builders Pocket Guide Home Page



For more information—page 45 in the Builders Pocket Guide

### Contact details:

Customer Services: 0800 324 636  
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Facilitating sustainable development  
in the Canterbury region  
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# Trade Painters

The correct way to clean up



We are counting on  
Professional Trade Painters to  
help protect our waterways

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Washing your gear on the grass is NOT an option for trade or professional painters, due to the amount of waste created. The above contractor was fined \$750.

If you get paid to paint then you are considered as a Professional Painter, it's that simple.

**If you discharge paint wash water onto ground or into drains and gutters you could be fined or prosecuted.**

As a professional painter you are responsible for ensuring that your trade waste, left over paint and/or paint wash water is disposed of correctly.

Regarding paint wash water, there are **3** options available:

- 1** Contained wash water system
- 2** Trade Waste Licence to discharge to sewer network
- 3** Paint equipment and wash water drop off points



Contact your local paint supplier for further information on paint sludge disposal.



### 1. Contained Wash Systems:

A contained wash system is where all wash water and paint are contained within the unit. Most paint manufacturers have their own systems that can be purchased or hired. Parts are also available so you can do it the good honest kiwi way and build your own. With this option you will need to dispose of your wash water correctly, either by a trade waste connection or arrange for a WasteMinz liquid waste removal contractor to remove your waste.

### 2. Trade Waste Licence:

You will need a Trade Waste Licence from your local council or arrange for a WasteMinz liquid waste removal contractor to take away larger amounts of wash water. **Make sure that you get a receipt** as you are still liable for your waste. With this option you will need to pre-treat your waste before being able to discharge it via your trade waste connection.

### 3. Brushes and Rollers Cleaning Services:

There are also companies that will clean your painting equipment for you. Remove excess paint then drop them off for cleaning. This service means that you have no paint wash water to deal with which allows you and your team more time to do other things instead of cleaning brushes and rollers.

### Drop Off Points:

Ask if your depot allows painters to drop off their paint wash water to ensure that it is disposed of correctly. Please contact your local depots, Eco Depot drop off or paint supplier to check availability or register your interest.

### Where to from here?

Contact your local paint supplier to discuss the option that is right for you. Depending on the amount of equipment you are required to clean, having your own contained wash system and trade licence might work best for you and your contractors. Your local building hub may be able to recommend a drop off point for your wash water or a company that can clean your paint equipment for you.

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# Help protect our waterways

## What can I do to help control this problem on-site?

Ensure that all wash water is treated and disposed of via a correct Tradewaste connection.