



## Flooding, gutters, downpipes & catchpits



# Easy tips to reduce flooding at home

Your home's stormwater system includes gutters, downpipes and catchpits. These all help direct rainwater safely away from your property. When they're blocked, damaged, or poorly maintained, water can build up on land and increase the risk of flooding - not just for you, but also your neighbours.

Common problems include:

- Leaves, vegetation and debris blocking water flow
- Damaged or disconnected downpipes or gutters
- Catchpits clogged with silt, rubbish or rotting vegetation
- Stormwater draining into sewer systems (cross-connections)

## Gutter and downpipe care

Clean gutters and downpipes at least twice a year, especially in autumn and spring. Clean more often if you're near trees or have frequent storms or high winds.

## What's the best way to clean them?

- Use a plastic gutter scoop and bucket or bag to remove leaves and debris.

## Maintenance tips

- Check for blockages and clear as needed.
- Inspect for signs of damage or corrosion.
- Check that downpipes are securely connected - tighten loose brackets and replace any missing screws with the correct size.
- Ensure downpipes are directing water into the stormwater system as intended - not onto lawns, driveways, or other surfaces.

Under the Stormwater Bylaw 2015, property owners are responsible for maintaining gutters, downpipes, catchpits, and other stormwater devices on their property that connect to the public network. These are part of the overall stormwater system and play a vital role in reducing flood risk.



## Catchpit care

Catchpits are small underground chambers with grates on top that tend to trap sediment and debris before surface water enters the piped network. Blocked catchpits can prevent water from draining properly and contribute to flooding on your property.

You can help keep catchpits working by:

- Checking for leaves and debris on top of the grate and clearing them away regularly.
- Inspecting catchpit chambers at least twice a year (or more often in high-debris or heavy-rain areas).
- Lifting the grate and scooping out any build-up inside the catchpit. Make sure you have the right tools and it's safe to do so. Never enter the catchpit and replace the grate securely.

## When to call in the professionals

Contact a licensed professional, if you notice:

- Cracks, rust, or sagging gutters
- Water pooling around the base of your home
- Water stains on walls or foundations
- Rotted fascia boards near gutter or downpipe attachments
- Catchpits that fill quickly after being empty – this could indicate a blockage in the underground pipes and may require professional cleaning with a vacuum truck.



## What to remember when working on gutters, downpipes & catchpits

- Always follow safety precautions, especially when working at heights. Wear gloves and sturdy footwear.
- Dispose of debris in your green waste bin or compost. Never wash it down the drain – anything that enters the stormwater system ends up in our streams, waterways, and the sea.
- Contact a licensed professional if you're unsure, or if repairs or replacements are needed.

Visit [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/floodviewer](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/floodviewer) or scan the QR code for more information on flood hazards and how to get prepared.



### Rainwater tanks

Installing a rainwater tank can help reduce flooding by capturing runoff from your roof, but if not installed correctly, it can cause problems. Visit the Auckland Council website for guidance on how to install a tank safely and correctly.



### Need help?



Visit: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

Enquire: [aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus](http://aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/contactus)



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