



It is important you dispose of food waste, grease and fats responsibly to prevent pollution to our environment

The Law

The Polluter Pays

The Resource Management Act 1991 (RMA) is a law designed to protect our environment. In Auckland, it is illegal for any substance to be discharged into natural water, the stormwater system, land or air unless authorised by a resource consent or a district or regional plan. Polluters can be fined up to \$1,000, issued abatement notices, or prosecuted and fined up to \$600,000 for breaching the RMA.

Landowners: you are responsible for any work on your land. Make sure the contractor you hire knows how to do the job properly.

Employers: you are responsible for the actions of your staff. Make sure you train them well and give them the proper tools to do the job correctly.

Workers: you are responsible for doing the job in a manner that does not breach the environmental protections put in place by your employer. If you cause pollution, you and/or your company could be held liable for clean-up costs and/or penalties.



Report all spills immediately to the Pollution Response Hotline on 09 377 3107

Phone 09 301 0101 or visit
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Food Waste, Fats and Grease

Preventing Pollution in Our Waterways



Phone 09 301 0101 or visit
aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



What's the Problem?

Fat and grease block drains and pollute the environment

Food waste, fats and grease are serious pollutants. If they are discharged into the stormwater system (a series of open channels and underground pipes which carry rainwater run-off) they have the potential to contaminate waterways and have a negative impact on the environment.

When hot fat and grease are poured into the sink, they will cool and solidify. If these wastes are allowed to enter the sanitary sewer, this can result in blocked drains and cause a sewer overflow. Sewer overflows pose a health risk to you and your neighbours and have a negative impact on the receiving environment.

The disposal of food waste, fats and grease needs to be carefully managed to prevent pollution to the environment.



Make sure food waste, grease and fats do not go down drains

What Can You Do?

There are ways to prevent sewer overflows and protect the stormwater system from food waste, fats and grease pollutants.

Keep things clear and tidy

Keep your premises tidy. Have procedures in place and schedule tasks to be done on a regular basis to help you and your staff prevent discharges into the stormwater system.

Preventing sewer overflows

- Do not pour cooking oil and fat into a sink
- Use commercial waste grease containers for collection
- Alternatively, collect waste grease in a plastic bag or newspaper and dispose of it in the rubbish bin
- Install grease traps in your sinks, and service them on a regular basis
- Using hot water and detergent will not prevent fat blockages – it will just move the blockage further down the line and cause an overflow elsewhere

Equipment and outdoor cleaning

- Never use detergents or bleach for outside cleaning
- Clean equipment in a way that run-off does not enter the stormwater system (i.e. on unsealed ground).

Indoor cleaning

- Dispose of wash water (mopping, surface cleaning, etc.) to the sewer system (i.e. an indoor sink or drain)
- Do not discharge wash water to the stormwater system



Store and dispose of food waste responsibly

By improving the storage and handling of waste grease you can reduce the risk of spills.

- Use leak-proof containers with a lid to store waste grease and oil
- Keep them under cover and in a bunded area if possible
- Engage a contractor to remove your waste oil
- Educate all personnel about pollution prevention and proper waste handling

Waste and recycling skips

- Make sure skips and bins are leak-proof
- Prevent liquid waste from leaking into the stormwater system
- Clean waste and recycling areas daily
- Do not overfill skips and bins and keep the lids closed
- Have skips and bins emptied on a regular basis
- Cover your waste storage area where possible