

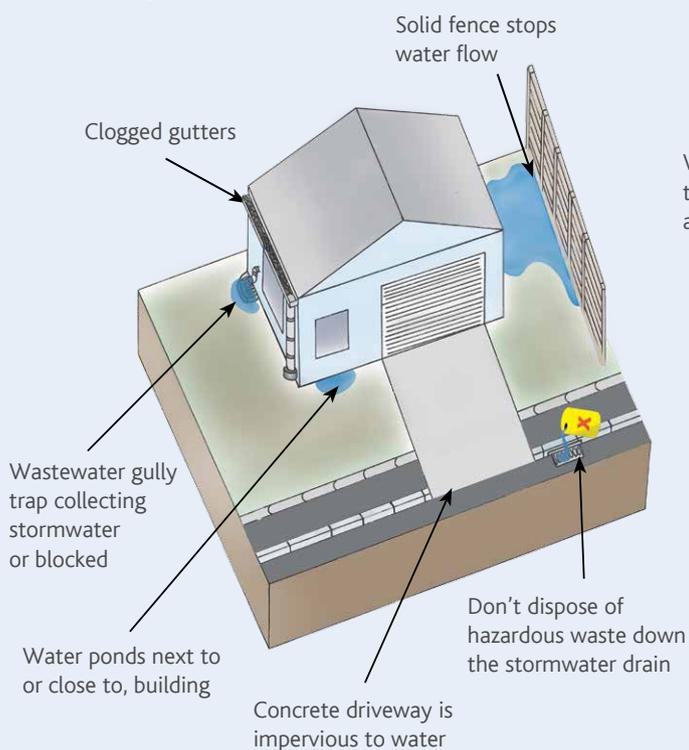
Managing stormwater at your place

Protecting your home

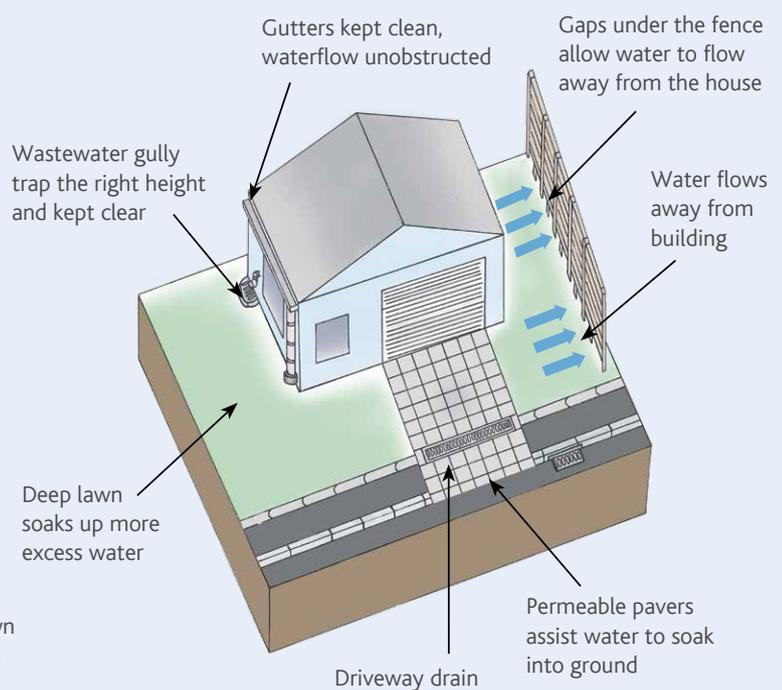
To prevent drainage problems or flooding on your property, check and clear the drains on your property. It is important to remember that managing drainage on a property is the responsibility of the landowner.

Also, what flows into your drains will flow into the public stormwater drainage network or streams before continuing to the sea, so being careful about what gets washed down the drain helps keep Auckland's beaches clean and safe.

Poor practice



Best practice



► Find out more: phone 09 301 0101
or visit aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

What can you do?

By doing some simple, regular maintenance and allowing space for natural drainage your property will be better protected if there is heavy rainfall at your place.

- Maintain your drains, gutters and downpipes, keeping them free of debris that may block them.
- Maintain garden and grass areas so they can help to soak up rainwater.
- Lay permeable pavers, rather than concrete or asphalt, these will allow water to soak into the ground.
- Maintain vegetation around any stream areas on your property, these will help prevent erosion and limit pollution reaching the stream. To help stream owners, Auckland Council has produced a series of stream management guides (*Caring for Urban Streams*).
- When making changes to your property ensure the slope of the land where a building is placed allows water to drain to the lowest point. Please see our *Managing overland flow* factsheet for more info.
- Undertake a flood risk assessment when building in a low-lying area.

What causes issues?

- Draining stormwater into wastewater drains, this can overload the wastewater system and mean that waste water overflows onto property.
- Blocking the path of surface water flow with landscaping, retaining walls or fences (without a gap between the fence and ground).
- Shallow top soil layers or compacted ground.
- Disposing waste or pollutants into stormwater drains. These flow to our beaches and contaminate them.

Who can help

If you have problems with your private drainage then your first call should be to a plumber or a drainage contractor. The Plumbers, Gasfitters and Drainlayers Board is a useful place to find a contractor in your area – pgdb.co.nz. If you think that you have a problem regarding overland flow, then a landscaping contractor or engineer will be able to advise you.

Before starting a development that may affect flow paths on your land please consult Auckland Council by calling 09 301 0101. Talking to us at the start can avoid costly problems later.

Be a good neighbour

Making changes on your property can affect your property's drainage or your neighbours. So, if you are making changes such as adding a building, driveway or anything that changes the land's natural drainage, it is a good idea to discuss this with your neighbour(s) to prevent potential problems.

If your neighbour's changes have affected you it pays to talk it over with them, as often you can work together to find a solution.

Your responsibility

As property owner, managing the private drainage on the property is just one of the responsibilities of ownership.

Council's responsibility

The council is responsible for managing public drainage and roads as well as maintaining and building the large public stormwater drainage network that serves the region.

Resources are available on our website: aucklandcouncil.govt.nz key word 'stormwater.'