

# Stormwater and your home

Most private drains connect to the public stormwater network and are important because they carry stormwater away from homes and businesses to the public network, streams and the sea. It's important to remember that chemicals, oils, dirt and soaps can get washed into drains and can then damage the environment, especially the sea.

Please follow the guidelines below to reduce the likelihood of stormwater problems on your property.

## What can help

Maintaining your drains, including gutters, downpipes and cesspits. Keep them clear of leaves, sticks and other objects that might block them.

Shaping the land so that water drains away from buildings allowing it to be collected by a drain at the lowest point. Keep the area free of blockages.

Increasing the area of permeable ground, such as lawn, that can soak up and hold on to rain water, this means less water will flow over the land.

Maintaining open streams that run through your property by maintaining vegetation – streams help natural drainage.

Using permeable paving as an alternative to impermeable concrete or asphalt.

Undertaking a flood risk assessment when building in a low-lying area.

## What causes problems

Draining stormwater into wastewater drains or allow stormwater to overflow into gully traps.

Blocking stormwater drainage off the site, especially overland flow paths, with landscaping, retaining walls or solid fences – leave a gap under fences.

Using plastic sheets to cover ground as this prevents rainwater soaking into the ground. Compacting ground also prevents drainage.

Directing stormwater onto your neighbours' property or adjacent property in a way that causes a problem – such as erosion or flooding.

Disposing of waste materials or pollutants into stormwater drains as they flow in to our streams and on to our beaches. This can result in a fine as it is illegal.

Shallow layers of top soil – less soil to soak up the water means more water will flow across the surface instead.

## Drainage is just one of the jobs (for everybody)

Just like mowing the lawn or clearing weeds, looking after the drainage on a property is one of those jobs that owners have to manage themselves.

The council is responsible for managing drainage for public areas and roads as well as maintaining and building the large public stormwater drainage network that serves the region. Most private drains connect to this public stormwater network.

## Neighbouring properties

There are times when changes to neighbouring properties can affect your property's drainage. So if you are making changes such as landscaping or increasing the amount of impermeable surface area then you should discuss this with your neighbours and the Council to ensure that there are no problems in the future.

If your neighbour's changes have affected you, it is often best to simply start with a conversation – often drainage problems are shared across a number of properties so by working together the problem is reduced.

## For more information

If you would like more information on drainage and stormwater management, please contact Auckland Council on 09 301 0101

Resources are available on our website: [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz) key word 'stormwater'

If you see someone polluting our waterways phone the pollution hotline – 09 377 3107

► **Find out more:** phone 09 301 0101  
or visit [www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](http://www.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)