

MAINTAINING A CLEAN BUILDING SITE DOES MATTER.....

Water contamination poses a serious impact on the environment. Builders, developers and residents have obligations to prevent the deposit or release of sand, sediment, silt, and rubbish or building materials into council gutters, stormwater drains and waterways from building sites. It is the Principle Contractor's responsibility to ensure they maintain a clean building site to prevent any potential contamination from entering a waterway.

BUILDERS & DEVELOPERS

Environmental Health Officers enforce the *Environmental Protection Act 1994* to ensure potential sediment, sand, silt runoff and/or rubbish discharge into council Waterways is controlled to protect water quality.

PENALTIES FOR NOT COMPLYING

Causing water contamination will result in on the spot fines being issued under the *Environmental Protection Act 1994*:

For Individuals - \$1,767,
For Corporations - \$8,835

Littering or allowing litter to disperse from the site will result in on the spot fines being issued under the *Waste Reduction and Recycling Act 2011*:

For Individuals - \$235
For Corporations - \$1178

WHAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO PREVENT BUILDING WASTE CONTAMINATION?

1. Install and maintain sediment fences to control runoff into the stormwater drain,
2. Have ordinary waste containers or bins available onsite at all times to ensure all small lightweight rubbish such as paper, cardboard packaging, and food wrappers are contained and cannot be dispersed in high winds,
3. Have a waste enclosure to hold large items of building waste. An example of a waste enclosure can be constructed using corrugated iron and stakes, or steel mesh with shade cloth,
4. Empty waste containers and clear other waste storages on a regular basis.
5. It is every person's responsibility to manage litter on building sites to stop environmental harm.



Figure 1 - A waste enclosure with a shade cloth surround to stop all waste being blown off site

Maintaining a Clean Building Site

WHAT CAN BE IMPLEMENTED TO PREVENT STORMWATER CONTAMINATION?

1. Ensure there is only 1 designated entry/exit driveway located on the building site for all vehicles.
2. Ensure a gravel type temporary driveway at the entry/exit of the building site.
3. Avoid vehicles and machinery from parking or driving on exposed soil as this soil can end up on the tyres and onto the road.
4. Install sediment controls such as sediment fences or turf strips.



Figure 2 - A rumble pad constructed of large gravel to the entry /exit of the building

BY IMPLEMENTING THE ABOVE-MENTIONED BEST PRACTICE METHODS, THE FOLLOW BENEFITS CAN BE ACHIEVED:

1. Improve wet weather working conditions,
2. Reduced clean-up costs,
3. Fewer public complaints,
4. Reduced risk of downtime and fines,
5. Avoid the silting up of Councils stormwater infrastructure.

MORE INFORMATION & CONTACTING COUNCIL

If you require any further information about this topic or any other Environmental Nuisance issue, please call Council's Customer Service Centre on 1300 308 461.

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Mareeba QLD 4880	Facsimile:	(07) 4092 3323
65 Rankin Street	Email:	info@msc.qld.gov.au
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HOME RENOVATORS / BUILDERS

If you are conducting home renovations you are also required to comply with the same requirements as builders and developers and prevent water contamination.

Make sure you prevent runoff by controlling soil, sediment and litter on your property. Penalties for home renovators are the same as builders and developers.