



Environmental MATTERS

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Stormwater Management

Our stormwater contains many pollutants that can enter our local creeks, rivers and the harbour, causing harm to native animals, plants, fish breeding habitats and recreational areas. As a business you must:-

- Prevent stormwater from entering or leaving work areas where it may become contaminated with grease, oils, chemicals, particulates or solvents.
- Cover and bund such areas where necessary to avoid the incursion of stormwater and prevent hazardous and trade wastes from contaminating the surrounding soil and stormwater system.
- Prevent wastewater containing contaminants (such as solvents and detergents used for cleaning areas) from contaminating stormwater or the ground. Do not hose workshop floors,

vehicles or machinery parts on to the surrounding soil or into stormwater drains.

- Store wastes undercover and in a bunded area so that contaminants cannot be washed to stormwater by rain.

Furthermore, as a business you are prohibited from directing stormwater to the sewerage system. It is your responsibility to contain any contaminated stormwater (e.g. holding tank) and:

- Dispose of by a licensed waste removalist; or
- Treat on-site to an appropriate standard for discharge via a valid trade waste permit; or
- Treat on-site for recycling or re-use.

Licence Renewals

The annual licence renewal period has come around again. You should now have received correspondence from Council with the following information included:

- A letter explaining the adopted new fee structure
- An invoice for payment of your annual licence fees
- A compulsory renewal form to be completed and returned to Council

Payment of fees and submission of the renewal form are due by 30 June 2012.

Payments can be made either using BPAY with details on the invoice, cheque in post or in person at a Council office.




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Abrasive Blasting

Abrasive blasting is generally conducted in a blast chamber, blasting yard or, when blasting 'immovable' structures and/or machinery, on location using mobile blasting machinery. Preventing air, soil and water contamination from hazardous waste is extremely important. Ensuring all spent abrasives and dusts are contained will help prevent heavy metals and blast debris from entering the environment.

Wet and water, dry and in-chamber abrasive blasting are some of the most common forms of blasting. The following guidelines should always be followed when performing any of the activities.

Wet and Water Blasting

- Conduct all wet abrasive and water blasting in a bunded area or enclosure with an impervious surface.
- Collect wastewater in a holding tank for: disposal to sewer under conditions of a Trade Waste Permit or disposal via a licensed waste removalist treatment and reuse. Contain and remove all waste from wet abrasive and water blasting before it:
 - dries and becomes airborne;
 - is washed away to drains and waterways; or
 - causes land contamination or harm to the environment.

Dry Blasting

- Undertake all dry-blasting activities on a bunded and controlled surface to prevent ground, water and stormwater contamination. This will help in collecting spent abra-

sives and other debris.

- Minimise dry blasting areas through planning and managing work activities.
- Use vacuum recovery systems on small work areas to minimise dust emissions and health risks.

In-Chamber Abrasive Blasting

- The blast chamber must be totally enclosed and vented to atmosphere through an effective dust collector, preferably a fabric filter dust collector.
- Properly maintain the dust collector in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.
- Collect all particulate waste generated within the blast chamber. Store it in a secure location before disposal to an approved waste facility.

Contain chamber dust by:

- keeping the doors closed while the blasting operations are taking place
- keeping the doors closed for a suitable duration after the blasting operations stops to allow the residual dust to be extracted from the booth.

Abrasive Blasting should never be performed in the open. Performing abrasive blasting in the abovementioned ways will help prevent any waste or materials from contaminating the environment. If you are ever unsure if you should be performing any form of blasting, contact Council's Environmental Health office first.



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Noise Pollution

Noise from domestic and commercial activities can affect neighbouring properties by disrupting sleep and interfering with normal daily activities. Noise nuisance can impact on people's health and wellbeing and consideration of the surrounding community should be made when conducting an activity that produces a noise nuisance.

The *Environmental Protection Act 1994* provides for noise nuisance guidelines and enforcement by prescribing standards for noise levels and appropriate times that certain activi-

ties can occur.

Noise nuisance can be reduced by:

- limiting the hours of use,
- the location of the activity,
- maintaining or selecting quieter equipment,
- using fences, enclosures or barriers,
- modifying the activity so that noise is not generated.

For further information on nuisance noise guidelines please contact Council's Environmental Health Department.



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