



Ask yourself: should that go down the drain?

Ever thought about where all that water goes when it rains? The water from our roofs and roads goes through our drainage network pipes and ends up untreated in our water-ways and then into the sea.

Our stormwater network is a vital part of the city's infrastructure and has been designed to prevent flooding of our properties and roads.

Everyone, including you, has a part to play in helping protect our waterways by thinking about what we put down our drains!

Has your car got a bit of an oil leak?

What did you do with the used oil from your last oil change? Have you been letting the soapy water from washing your car drain away along the gutter? Where did you clean your brushes after painting your fence?

Remember that what goes down that stormwater drain ultimately ends in our precious waterways.



Why is it important that stormwater isn't polluted or contaminated?

Polluted stormwater runoff can have a negative impact on plants, fish, animals and people.

- Sediment can cloud waterways and make it difficult for aquatic plants to grow.
- An excess of nutrients can cause algae blooms, which then decompose and remove oxygen from the water. Fish don't survive in water with low oxygen levels.
- Debris (plastic bags, six pack rings, bottles, cigarette butts) can choke fish, ducks and other birds.
- Wastes such as paint, oil and other fluids can poison aquatic life. Then land animals and people can become sick from eating diseased fish or ingesting polluted water.

What is the difference between wastewater and stormwater?

WASTEWATER

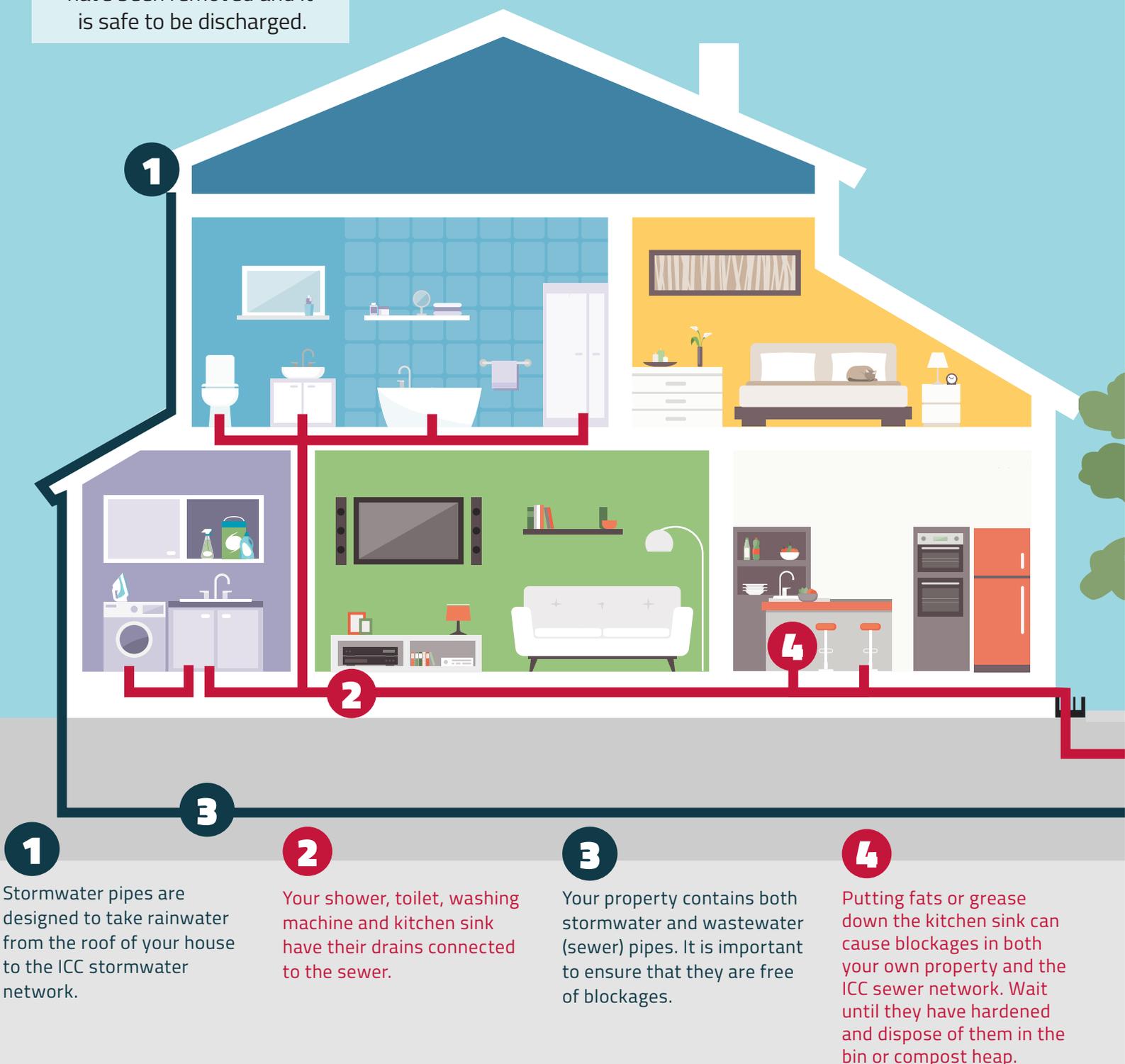
is used water from your house – from your morning shower, washing machine, dishwasher and toilet. It travels through a sewerage system to our wastewater treatment plants, and then goes into the estuary when pollutants have been removed and it is safe to be discharged.

STORMWATER

from roofs and outside surfaces ends up in the stormwater drainage system. It drains, untreated, into five Invercargill waterways - Waikiwi Stream, Waihopai River, Otepunu Stream, Kingswell Creek and Clifton Channel.

SEWAGE

is just another word for wastewater.



How would wastewater and stormwater get mixed up?

When a wastewater pipe is blocked or ruptured, this can cause contaminated water to run over land, and then to stormwater drains. If it soaks into land, it can also seep into stormwater pipes. Try to avoid:

- Tree roots getting into both stormwater and wastewater drains, causing them to leak and sometimes collapse completely. Make sure that you don't plant trees that have extensive root systems over or near your drains.
- Toilet blockages. The only things that should be flushed down the toilet is human waste and toilet paper. Don't flush away wet wipes, sanitary products, disposable nappies, medications or dental floss, as all of these can block toilet pipes.
- Putting solids (especially grease) down your sink. Fats and grease which might be in liquid form when they go down your sink can cool and harden in the pipe system, causing blockages. The blockages can then create overflows of untreated wastewater, which can end up in the stormwater network and into our rivers and streams. Instead, let that grease or fat cool before scraping it into your rubbish bin or compost pile.

A note on hazardous waste...

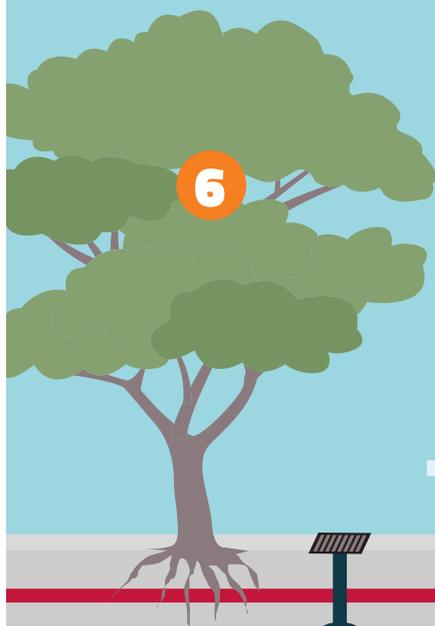
Hazardous wastes like paints, oils, solvents, or pesticides should never be washed down any drains! If they can't be stored or used, many of these items can be disposed of at special locations around the Invercargill District.

For more information, visit:
www.orangepages.org.nz

Got a question? See something that concerns you?

If you see a blocked drain on the street, any liquid coming from a manhole, or a spill which could enter the drainage network, please contact Council on (03) 211 1777 – we've got people available 24/7 for urgent calls.

If you have a question about where you can safely dispose of a contaminant, or want to know if it's safe to go down the drain, please contact us during business hours: 8am-5pm.



5 Some properties will have a stormwater manhole or grate on their property. It is important to keep it free from other contaminants.



6 When deciding on planting new trees, check to see whether roots may grow into any pipes.



7 If you ever come across a manhole that is missing or there is liquid flowing from it, call ICC 24/7 on **(03) 211 1777**.



8 Roadside sumps are used to take rain from the driveways and roads and transport it to the ICC stormwater network.

How can I do my bit to help?

- Make sure that you don't drop cans, plastic, paper and other rubbish on the street where they can float along gutters after rain.
- Never pour pollutants directly into drains - oil, paint, detergents, bleaches, concrete washwater etc.
- Get rid of your used oil safely. Don't mix it with other fuels and lubricants, and store it in a non-leaking, labelled container. You can recycle it at the following places:
 - Invercargill Sump Cleaning
 - Service Stations (check with them first)
 - South Oil
 - Transfer stations - hazardous waste shed. (Check with the facility for limits)
 - Some vehicle and auto parts retailers
- Make sure your vehicle is well maintained and doesn't leak

oil. You could also walk, bus, bike or share a ride rather than take the car. A large part of pollutants in stormwater runoff is from hydrocarbons and heavy metals, which come directly from our roads.

- Wash your car on grass or on a surface where the water can drain away naturally, rather than on your driveway or the street. This lets the dirty, soapy water soak through the soil, rather than heading directly into the drainage system and our waterways. Better still, treat yourself and take your vehicle to a commercial car wash, where there will be a suitable system to get rid of the water!
- In autumn especially, leaves can clog up stormwater drains. Rake up leaves regularly. When you mow your lawns, collect up the clippings and put them on your garden or in the compost. Try not to use fertilizers and pesticides close to where they

could be washed into the drains - these are especially dangerous for river and sea life.

- Keep your gutters and spouting clear of leaves, sticks and other objects. This might mean trimming branches of trees near your house.
- Clean up any animal droppings when walking the dog. These can enter the stormwater network from grass verges or footpaths during rainfall. Droppings then enter the waterways and can raise E.coli levels, making the water unsafe.
- If you have time, take five minutes and a bucket to clear stormwater drains outside your house when they get clogged up with debris. You might prevent localised flooding, and your neighbours as well as the environment will thank you for it!
- Make sure that your wastewater doesn't get mixed in with your stormwater.

Your rates payment is due...

Payments should be made by **February 22nd, 2019** to avoid a penalty of 10%.

For more rates information and online payment details visit Council's website, www.icc.govt.nz/rates

Handwritten calendar for February 2019. The date February 22nd is circled in red.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28		

Handwritten calendar for May 2019. The date May 31st is circled in red.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
		1	2	3	4	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Handwritten calendar for August 2019. The date August 31st is circled in red.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Handwritten calendar for November 2019. The date November 30th is circled in red.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Handwritten calendar for February 2020. The date February 28th is circled in red.

sun	mon	tue	wed	thu	fri	sat
					1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29