



Protect our rivers

We need your help to **stop paint** getting in our awa.



Never tip paint or clean up water onto driveways or into gutters. It kills our rivers, harbour and ocean.

This is the environmental damage caused from just one painter cleaning their buckets on a driveway in Porirua.



You should know

- We all need to protect and take care of our environment.
- It is illegal to put paint into our waterways and the stormwater system.

You can be fined up to \$1,000, issued abatement notices, or prosecuted and fined up to \$600,000 for breaching the Resource Management Act.

How to clean your equipment

- NEVER wash off painting equipment on a driveway, gutter or where it will flow to a stormwater drain or natural watercourse.
- NEVER pour surplus paint down a drain. The Resene Colour Shop on Lyttelton Avenue, Porirua accepts useable leftover Resene paint to donate to community groups. Dulux also have a paint takeback programme. Alternatively, paint can be left to dry hard and disposed of with solid waste.
- **Water-based paint** equipment CAN be washed in sinks that go to a council sewer system, such as a laundry sink (not a septic system or stormwater) or on an unsealed surface such as a lawn or gravel area well away from gutters and waterways.
- For additional recommendations on how to reduce environmental impact in the clean-up of water-based and oil-based paints see the Resene suggestions listed on this webpage www.resene.co.nz/homeown/how_to_diy/paint-cleanup-and-disposal.htm

How paint damages our waterways

Paints and thinners contain a number of harmful substances that severely affect our waterways. The impact of these include:

- Poisoning animals that drink from or live in the stream.
- Restricting light entering a stream.
- Smothering organisms and clogging the gills and eyes of fish.
- Reducing oxygen levels in waterways, making fish and shellfish unsuitable for consumption, and killing plant and animal aquatic life.

Please help to protect our waterways. River pollution concerns can be reported via the Greater Wellington Environmental hotline 0800 496 734, (04) 384 5708 or info@gw.govt.nz.

INFO: This info has been collated by Porirua community members based on available info online from a range of councils and businesses. Please contact council organisations directly if you have additional questions.