

**Disclaimers:** This information was believed to be correct at the date of its publication. This information is for general information purposes only and should not be relied upon for legal advice.

## WASTEWATER FROM ROOF CLEANING FLOWS DIRECTLY INTO OUR CREEKS, RIVERS AND WATERWAYS

### THE EFFECTS OF ROOF CLEANING

#### Stormwater Pollution

Roof and gutter downpipes connect directly to roadside gutters and stormwater drains. This means wastewater run-off from roof cleaning ends up in our creeks, rivers and the ocean. Pollutants, such as oxides, algae, paint flakes, concrete and sediment can kill seagrass, aquatic plants and marine life. By taking some simple precautions when cleaning and restoring roofs, you can help protect our waterways.

#### The Law

Allowing polluted wastewater to enter stormwater drains, roadside gutters or waterways is an offence under *The Protection of the Environment Operations Act 1997* and may attract fines from \$750 for an individual, \$1500 for a corporation, or prosecution up to a maximum amount of \$1,000,000 and a further maximum penalty of \$120,000 for each day the offence continues.

Council decides what enforcement action to take in accordance with our Enforcement Policy.

### STEPS YOU CAN TAKE WHEN CLEANING

#### Downpipes

- Where possible, disconnect downpipes and redirect wastewater to the garden or a holding tank for disposal by a licensed liquid waste disposal contractor.
- If disconnecting downpipes is not feasible, block the downpipe when cleaning and feed the wastewater onto lawns or gardens.

#### Gutters

- A hole may be drilled in the gutter, downpipes blocked and water diverted to garden beds. When complete, plug the hole with a grommet.

#### Stormwater Drains

- Protect stormwater drains using sandbags or a portable bund (a barrier to contain water) in the roadside gutter.
- Remove captured wastewater using a vacuum or bilge pump to direct to lawns or gardens, making sure no wastewater flows into the stormwater drain.
- Always keep handy a spill response kit, including a shovel, broom and rags, to clean-up residues.
- Do not wash or hose remaining waste materials down the stormwater drain.

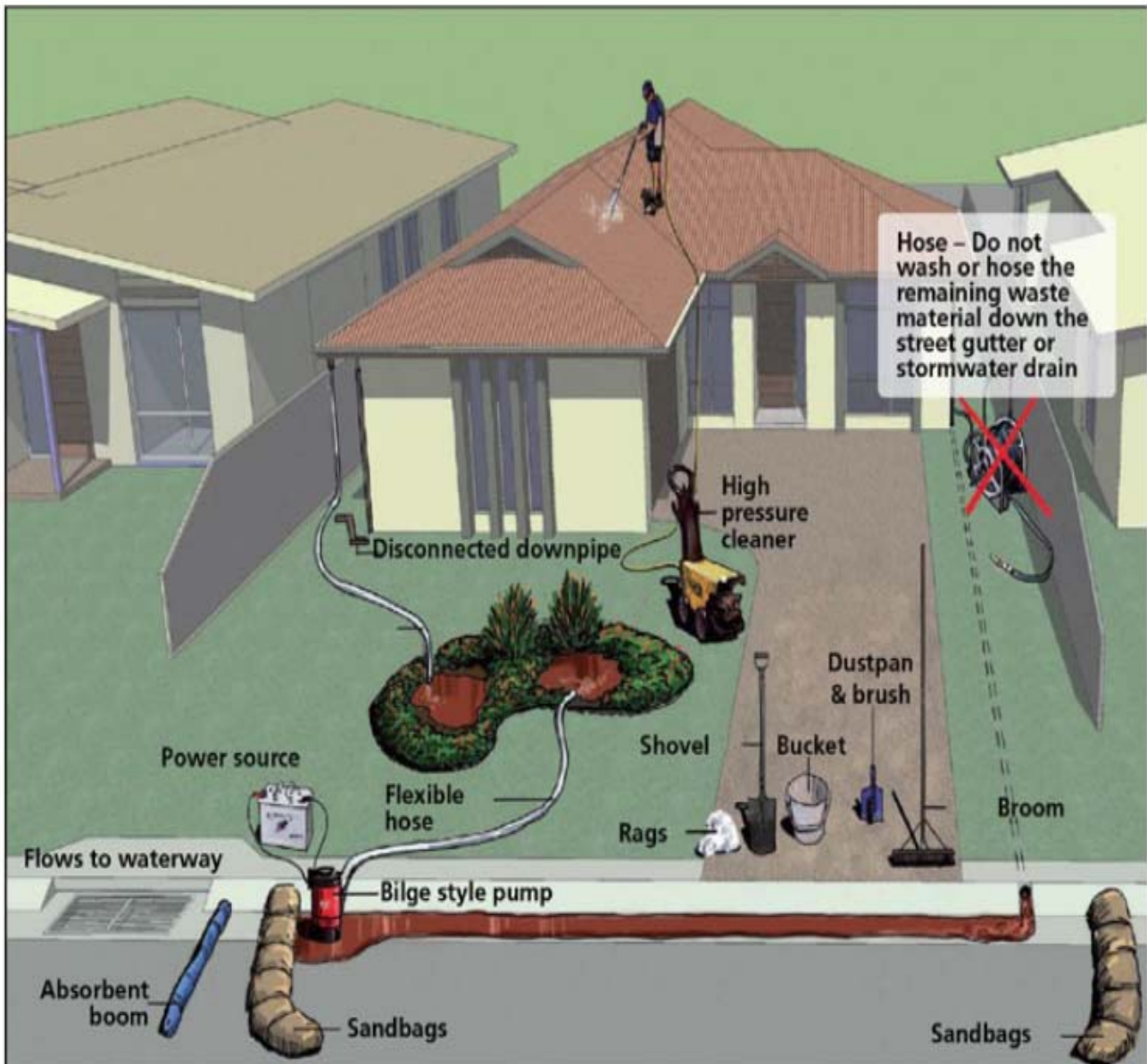
#### Another Helpful Hint

- Keep cleaning times to a minimum. It is possible to over clean the roof.

See image over page of all items needed to clean your roof and prevent run-off into our waterways.

NB: This information has been reproduced with permission from Gold Coast City Council who developed the Fact Sheet with funding from the *Australian Government's Regulation Reduction Incentive Fund*.

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*Roof cleaning and restoration – artist impression*