

Drain Stencilling

Stormwater is all the water that runs off the ground when it rains. The large area of roofs, roads, car parks and footpaths in towns and cities collect a lot of water when it rains. All the rubbish and pollution that collects on the ground between rain storms is washed into drains when it rains and usually ends up in local creeks, rivers or beaches.

Often, people don't even realise the direct connection between a drain on the side of the road and their local river or beach. Stencilling stormwater drains helps people to understand and remember that what goes down the drain will end up polluting waterways.

After all, "The Drain is Just for Rain".

A number of stormwater drain stencilling kits have been put together for use by Tasmanian schools and community groups. If you would like to book a stencilling kit, contact the Derwent Estuary Program, 6233 3383 or derwent@environment.tas.gov.au. A limited number of kits are available so you may need to book ahead.

Stencilling Kits

The kits are made up of all the items needed to carry out a drain stencilling mission, including:

- ◆ request/permission forms for your local council
- ◆ 1 large & 5 smaller high visibility vests
- ◆ 1 scrubbing brush
- ◆ 3 stencils
- ◆ 4 traffic cones
- ◆ 2 'workmen ahead' signs
- ◆ gloves
- ◆ Paint and paint brushes
- ◆ 1 instruction sheet



Approvals

Prior to starting any drain stencilling activity, permission must first be sought by the road owner. In most cases, the road owner will be the local council managing the area. In some cases, the Department of Infrastructure, Energy and

Resources will be the road owner, however, for streets with a maximum speed limit of 50km/hr the road owner will usually be council.

The drain stencilling kit contains a permission form that may be filled in and sent to your local council.

It's also a good idea to ask the council if they would like to provide maps that may be used to mark stormwater drains that have been stencilled. The council may wish for these to be returned so they have a record of drains stencilled. They may even have some ideas for priority areas.

**the DRAIN is
just for RAIN**



Safety

Working near roads can be dangerous so all precautions should be taken to ensure the safety of the stencilling crew. Follow the instructions on the field instruction sheet provided in the kit at all times.

Only drains on roads with a 50km/hr or lower speed limit should be stencilled. Roads with higher speed limits require higher standards of traffic management which should only be carried out by appropriately trained people.

Groups **MUST** have supervision at all times while undertaking a stencilling program.

You may also consider seeking permission slips for students involved.

Promotion

Don't stop here, get the whole community involved!

You might like to notify local councillors and media about stencilling activities.

Prior to stencilling, research stormwater pollution and what people can do to help prevent it. Then, when people stop to ask what you are doing, as they inevitably will, students will be able to help in educating the community. Here are a few tips to get started:

- ◆ Wash cars on the grass
- ◆ Keep leaves and garden waste out of the gutter
- ◆ Use fertilisers and weed killers sparingly and not if wet weather looms
- ◆ Pick up after your pet and don't litter