

Top tips for healthy catchments

There are many things you can do to help our catchments stay healthy

1 Plant natives instead of exotics – the native Mauve Flax Lily (*Dianella revoluta*) looks gorgeous but won't spread into bushland like Agapanthus.

2 Use native grasses for your lawn – they need less water than non-native species and do not become weeds in local bushland.

3 Dispose of garden waste responsibly – through composting, mulching or recycling. Dumping weeds and grass clippings is against the law. It spreads weeds throughout the catchment and increases the chances of an algal outbreak through nutrients released from rotting vegetation.

4 Avoid using chemical-based pesticides & fertilisers – especially before rain or next to creeks and waterways. Encourage natural pest controllers like Blue-tongued Lizards and Leaf-tailed Geckos into your garden by providing rocks and logs for them to live in.

5 Use a broom, not a hose – sweep up leaves from paths, paved areas, driveways and guttering. They make great mulch or compost.

6 Clean up after your dog – place dog droppings in the dog litterbins provided or take them home. Dog droppings add unwanted nutrients that change the soil to favour weeds over native plants.

7 Install a rainwater tank – this can store water from your roof to use on your garden and around the home. It also reduces the amount of stormwater going down our drains.

8 Oil and chemical disposal – motor oils and chemicals should be recycled. Spills can be absorbed by sawdust or sand and disposed of in a rubbish bin. Don't put chemicals, oils or paint down the sink or drain.

13 Prevent root rot – wash soil from boots, tools and tyres to prevent the spread of *Phytophthora cinnamomi*, a fungus that causes root rot.

12 Minimise hard surfaces – cut down on paving, tiling, and concrete. Keep water on your property wherever possible through the use of permeable paving, pebble paths, lawns and garden areas.

11 Check driveway drainage – ensure it drains towards a vegetated area. That way you will water your plants when it rains and stop precious water loss down stormwater drains.

10 Keep rubbish out of the drain – rubbish left on our roads ends up in our local waters.

9 Washing your car – to keep phosphorous-based detergents out of the catchment, park on the grass and use a bucket. Use car-washing products that don't require water, or a car wash that uses recycled water.

