

You and the Resource Management Act (RMA) 1991

(Advice for Trade Painters)

Introduction

Thank you for your commitment to sustainably manage your trade paint waste (in particular paint wash water). This information is designed to provide advice on your responsibilities under the Resource Management Act 1991.

What you need to know

The RMA is a Strict Liability Law Section 15 states:

Section 15 - Discharge of contaminants into environment

- (1) **No person may discharge** any—
 - (a) **contaminant or water into water**; or
 - (b) **contaminant onto or into land in circumstances which may result in that contaminant** (or any other contaminant emanating as a result of natural processes from that contaminant) **entering water**; or
 - (c) contaminant from any industrial or trade premises into air; or
 - (d) **contaminant from any industrial or trade premises onto or into land**—

unless the discharge is expressly allowed by a national environmental standard or other regulations, a rule in a regional plan as well as a rule in a proposed regional plan for the same region (if there is one), or a resource consent.

(There is no rule permitting the discharge of paint wash water onto or into land or water or where it can enter water) Which means you can't do it.

If wash water or paint is poured on the ground, down a gutter, drain or into a river/stream every person involved with a site/project will be investigated to establish their liability.

That means up to \$1000 infringement (fine) or if you go to court, possible criminal convictions, \$600,000 max fine and/or 2 years imprisonment.

YES... EVEN IF YOU WEREN'T ON SITE WHEN IT HAPPENED!

Summary

If you are getting paint to work then the waste you generate is trade waste (just like health and safety applies when you are getting paid to do work).

All of your liquid/solid waste needs to be handled correctly, if not discharged under your contract paint supplier's global trade waste licence, you can get your own trade waste licence or contact a WasteMinz member and have the waste taken away – make sure you get a waste tracked receipt to show your project management office (PMO) you have done the right thing. **ALL WASTE WASH WATER NEEDS TO GO TO THE SEWER.**

If you see anyone pouring paint wash water or paint onto or into the ground, in the gutter, down a drain or into a stream/river Call – 0800 POLLUTION (0800 765 588).

If you have any questions speak to your paint supply contract manager or visit www.bpg.co.nz