

Any improvements made to the uphill sites must ensure that the extra stormwater is controlled and does not cause a nuisance or damage to your downhill property.

If your neighbour's runoff is causing a nuisance (which directly affects your or your property) or damaging your property, it is advisable to take the matter up with your neighbour directly. Council will only intervene where the runoff problem is the direct consequence of a building consent that Council has given assent to.

Who do I contact?

Drainage problems within my property, including soakholes.

A plumber.



Neighbour's runoff causing a nuisance/ damage—

Your neighbour.

Blocked stormwater mains and open drain problem.

Council's Water team.

Local road drainage, culverts.

Council's Land Transport (Roading) team.

State highway road drainage, culverts.

NZ Transport Agency, freephone 0800 444 449.

Any further stormwater problems.

Council's Land Transport (Roading) team.

Hazardous substances/pollution control.

Horizons Regional Council/Ruapehu District Council.

The information in this brochure is a guide only, and is not a statutory document

Ruapehu District Council
59-63 Huia Street
Private Bag 1001
Taumarunui 3946
Ph 07 895 8188 (24 hr)
Fax 07 895 3256
Email info@ruapehudc.govt.nz
Website www.ruapehudc.govt.nz



Ohakune Service Centre
Ayr Street, Ohakune
Ph 06 385 8364 (24 hr)

Raetihi Agency
Seddon Street, Raetihi
Ph 06 385 4447 (24 hr)



a guide to

Stormwater (Surface Water) Runoff Onto Another Property

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is surplus runoff from heavy rainfall. This water flows over land and into streams, rivers or lakes. It is important to control this stormwater flow to prevent flooding properties.

Stormwater on my Property?

Stormwater collects on the roofs of houses and is removed from the roof through spouting and downpipes. The water should then flow to a Council stormwater system (where available), a private stormwater system or a private soakhole within the property.

Every home owner has the obligation to dispose of their stormwater runoff in a way that avoids the likelihood of damage or nuisance to other property.

If stormwater runoff from your building is causing damage or nuisance to another property, you will be required to fix the situation and may expose yourself to liability for damages.

This is provided under Clause E1.3.1 of the NZ Building Code E1, which states that *“any event that has a 10% probability of occurring annually and which is collected or concentrated by buildings or site work shall be disposed of in a way that avoids the*

likelihood of damage or nuisance to other property”.

Additionally, it is illegal to introduce any hazardous substances into any part of the stormwater system, as this water is eventually inhabited by wildlife. These hazardous substances can also impact on people when they are introduced into stormwater systems.

Do I Have to Accept our Neighbour's Runoff?

You are only obliged to accept stormwater runoff from uphill properties which would naturally discharge onto your property.

