

What can I do if I see discharges into rivers or streams?



greater WELLINGTON
REGIONAL COUNCIL
Te Pane Matua Taiao

Reporting a discharge

- **If you see a discharge, such as paint, into a river or stream:**
 - Report it to the Environment Hotline on **0800 496 734**
 - Leave your contact details, preferably a mobile number, so the duty officer can call you back (the duty officer may be attending another incident so may not be able to respond immediately)
- **The duty officer will want to know:**
 - Where is the discharge occurring?
 - Is the discharge still occurring?
 - Where is the source of the discharge?
 - If you can identify the type of discharge (eg, paint or sediment)
- You may be asked to be a witness, so noting this information and taking photos (especially of the source of the discharge) would be useful

Taking samples

- Generally, only samples collected and analysed by an authorised duty officer using correct sampling techniques and equipment can be used as reliable evidence
- **If you choose to gather a sample:**
 - **DO NOT PUT YOURSELF AT RISK** in doing so
 - Use a clean bottle or container (with a lid) that has been thoroughly rinsed in tap water to ensure any cleaning detergents are no longer present
 - Note the time and place you took the sample
 - Note any prevailing weather conditions that may impact on the sample (eg, heavy rain)
 - Photograph the sample being collected
 - The duty officer may ask you to complete a witness statement and chain-of-custody form



Report discharges to:
Environment Hotline 0800 496 734

