

An important message for parents and caregivers in our community. When heavy rain falls it washes everything off our roads, rooftops, driveways and footpaths - straight into the stormwater system. That water might look like fun to splash in, but it can be dangerous, especially for children.

## Why Children Should Never Play in Stormwater

### 1. Hidden hazards in the water:

- **Toxic chemicals:** Stormwater often contains oil, fuel, cleaning products, pesticides, and even asbestos particles.
- **Sewage and bacteria:** Cross-contamination from sewer systems can introduce harmful bacteria like E. coli and other pathogens.
- **Heavy metals:** Runoff from roads and construction sites may carry lead, zinc, and other dangerous substances.
- **Rubbish and sharp objects:** Broken glass, syringes, and other debris can cause serious injury.

### 2. Dangerous physical conditions:

- **Fast-flowing water:** Even shallow water can become powerful and unpredictable, especially during storms.
- **Slippery and unstable surfaces:** Drains and culverts are not built for safe access - they're steep, slippery, and often unstable.
- **Sudden surges:** Water levels in stormwater drains can rise quickly without warning - even when it's not raining locally.

### How you can help keep children safe:

- **Talk with your children** about why drains, creeks and culverts are unsafe for play.
- **Teach them** the difference between stormwater and clean water sources.
- **Encourage safe alternatives** like local swimming pools, splash parks or supervised water play areas.
- **Report blockages or hazards** near stormwater infrastructure to Council.

## Need Assistance?

If you experience issues during or after heavy rain, please contact us:

- **Council customer service:** (02) 6660 0300
- **Email:** [council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au](mailto:council@richmondvalley.nsw.gov.au)

**Thank you for helping us protect our sewer network and environment.  
Working together, we can reduce the impact of wet weather events on  
our community.**

