



31 January 2022

Keep storm drains clear

It is no longer uncommon to see or find huge piles of waste, old house items, construction waste or used products dumped by the roadside, in the forests, or non-designated dumping sites.

This rising trend is a problem because it hinders the objective of keeping the environment clean and can have a serious impact on our lives. Illegal dumping in water drains could pose a significant problem in the case of flooding.

Storm drains are designed for catching rain water only.

If a neighbour is disposing trash in the storm drain, they may not understand that drain inlets directly connect to our creeks and

rivers.

If you have an amicable relationship with your neighbour, it may just be a matter of informing them of its environmental impact.

If it is someone who you feel is knowingly violating and repeatedly dumping into storm drains, please report them to your local authorities.

The Constitution of South Africa guarantees everyone the right of access to an environment that is not harmful to their health and well-being and to have the natural environment protected for the benefit of current and future generations.

Hence, the Department of Water and Sanitation is calling upon us to keep our storm drains clean by keeping our yard waste in a bin or container, keeping a tight lid on our rubbish bins, especially during windy days and raking up leaves and debris on our properties that could potentially clog the storm drain.

■ *Khulilezi Ngobho*