

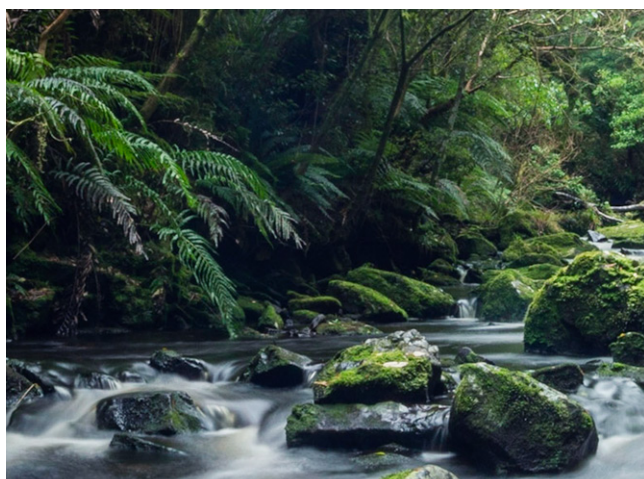


Discharge of liquid animal effluent to land

Applying animal effluent onto land provides valuable nutrients but it must be managed carefully to avoid negative effects on ground and surface water quality.

Some discharges of animal effluent remain prohibited. Generally, all discharge requires a resource consent, however the date for applying for consent depends on the number of days of storage you have, or if you are putting in new storage now (**please see [Timeline, Rules and Definitions for Animal Effluent Systems fact sheet](#)**).

Until these dates are reached, your discharge is temporarily permitted.



While your discharge is temporarily permitted, the discharge of animal effluent needs to be managed to ensure there is **no discharge within 50m of surface waterways** and their beds, including:

- ▶ Lakes
- ▶ Rivers
- ▶ Regionally significant wetlands
- ▶ Drains or water races that discharge to a lake, river, regionally significant wetland or the coastal marine area
- ▶ No discharge that results in ponding or overland flow to waterways

In addition, no discharge that results in any of the following in a waterway, after reasonable mixing:

- ▶ Conspicuous oil or grease film, scum or foam
- ▶ Floating or suspended material
- ▶ Change in water colour or clarity
- ▶ Emission of an objectionable odour
- ▶ Water being unsuitable for drinking by farm animals
- ▶ Significant negative effects on aquatic life

Do you need resource consent? Please see overleaf for more information on consents.

Do you need resource consent?

All discharges will eventually need a resource consent (except for some smaller discharges – see below). The requirement to apply for a consent is staged over several years depending on the capacity of your storage i.e. those with fewer days storage need to apply sooner than others.

Discharges are temporarily permitted until the dates are reached (please see the Timeline, Rules and Definitions for Animal Effluent Systems fact sheet), or for the first six months from when the rules are made operative.

Unless the use of land for your animal effluent storage facility is temporarily permitted under Rule 14.7.1.2 in the Water Plan, you need to apply for a resource consent to discharge effluent to land at the same time as you apply for consent to build a new animal effluent storage facility to ensure that you have consent within six months of the rules becoming operative.

Some smaller scale discharges can happen without consent.

You will not need a discharge consent if:

- ▶ The volume is not more than 25m³ per landholding in a consecutive 12-month period
- ▶ You don't discharge it within 20m of the boundary of the landholding where the effluent is being discharged
- ▶ You don't apply effluent when soil moisture is exceeding field capacity

It isn't prohibited under Rule 12.C.0.4 which talks about separation distances or discharges to water.

Generally, if you are discharging solid animal effluent to land or vegetative material containing solid or liquid effluent you will not need consent.

This is as long as:

- ▶ It is not a hazardous substance
- ▶ It does not contain human waste
- ▶ You do not discharge it onto the same area more frequently than every two months
- ▶ There is no solid effluent visible from the last time
- ▶ Soil moisture is in deficit, and you keep 20m away from things like bores, water supplies, rivers and Regionally Significant Wetlands

If you need a resource consent, ORC needs to know:

- ▶ Where effluent is generated (e.g. dairy shed, piggery, wintering barn)
- ▶ What's the size and location of the discharge or disposal area (e.g. name of property and separation distance from lakes, rivers, wetlands, bores, soak holes, water supplies and dwellings)
- ▶ Your recommended storage volume from the Dairy Effluent Storage Calculator
- ▶ How you discharge the effluent including the applicator you use, and the rate at which it discharges

Please contact our Consents team to discuss your application on.