

Silt collection FAQs

How do I arrange collection?

To advise an address for rural or residential silt collection please call **0800 108 838** and press '2' for cyclone-related waste collections. You will be asked a few questions to enable our collection teams to select the right collection and disposal options.

Please do not put silt on the verge outside your property until you have contacted 0800 108 838 to organise collection. There is a large amount of silt being moved onto roadsides already, which is entering drains and gutters greatly increasing the risk of flooding should there be more rain – even mild to moderate rain. Please leave silt on your property until advised otherwise.

What are the silt types? How do I describe my silt when I phone for collection?

The 0800 team will ask you to describe your silt in general, to enable the right disposal site to be selected. Choose from the following options:

- **Clean silt** – Silt from the likes of roads and streets, and urban/rural household gardens that do not have a septic tank; does not contain solid items like flood-damaged household furniture. (For assistance with disposing of flood-damage household goods fill in this form on this page: www.hastingsdc.govt.nz/cyclone-gabrielle/flood-damaged-household-items-collection.)
- **Mixed silt** – Silt mixed with small amounts of litter; waste from flood-damaged household goods (such as plastic, small toys and food waste), and flood-dispersed food like apples.
- **Contaminated silt** – Silt that may have had septic tank, spilt paint, diesel, chemicals etc mixed through.
- **Woody silt** – Silt mixed with quantities of timber and other storm-related debris like fence posts, trees etc.

Will you let us know when you're collecting our silt?

Yes, we may not be able to guarantee the time, but we will aim to provide you the day the contractor will be collecting your silt.

Is the expectation that residents check through silt to ensure it is debris free?

We are asking residents to provide information on the general make-up of the silt to allow our team to select the right site for disposal. We don't expect residents to sift through their silt, but rather to assist our teams to be informed and prepared to deal with the collection.

Where do I put my silt for collection?

It needs to be in a pile as close to the front of your property as possible, accessible by a truck. If you have a small urban property which makes this difficult, please advise the 0800 team when you call to arrange collection.

How do I collect up the silt on my property for collection?

On urban sections you may choose to do this yourself or use a contractor. (The collection of larger quantities of silt from rural properties is being managed by Hawke's Bay Regional Council).

Can Council help clear silt from my property?

Generally not - given the sheer volume of silt that needs to

be dealt with across the district, Hastings District Council is concentrating on removing silt that has been piled up for collection. (The collection of larger quantities of silt from rural properties is being managed by Hawke's Bay Regional Council).

How do I get silt out from under my house?

You need to contact your insurance company regarding this work. Assessing the need for silt removal, the best way to do this if it is required, and carrying out the work require particular skills. Your insurance assessor will be able to help you make decisions on this.

Do I need to test my silt before I move it?

No, we only ask you provide our teams with information on the make-up of the silt to enable our collection team to select the right disposal site. Hawke's Bay Regional Council has carried out random testing across in rural areas across the region and is continuing to do so, to develop an understanding of the makeup of the vast bulk of the silt and identify problem areas. If a homeowner or contractor has concerns that silt may be contaminated, they can advise the team via the **0800 108 838** number and a council tester will attend to analyse the issue.

Is the silt tested before/when it's collected?

Generally no; the collection team will pick the silt up and determine where it should go for disposal. Decisions on whether silt needs to be referred for investigation (given the area and/or use of the former site) will be made by the collection teams. If that is the case, the results will determine the site to which it is delivered.

Where is the silt being stored?

We have identified a number of safe storage sites for silt. While these are generally on Council-owned land, there are some sites on private land. All of the sites are accessible only by approved contractors.

How do we know the storage sites are safe for people and the environment?

Councils and utility lifeline entities can stockpile and discharge silt using the emergency powers under the Resource Management Act. Environmental management plans are being prepared for the sites, and Resource Consents applied for if necessary. The councils are ensuring appropriate controls are in place to ensure the safety of the sites, both for the environment and the people working at them.

What about silt in swimming pools?

If your swimming pool has been inundated with silt, we recommend you pump any remaining water onto the ground (generally onto grass where the water can soak in) and then move the silt onto a pile and call to arrange collection. You can also extract and dispose of pool water at your own expense through a local waste contractor, however please bear in mind our wastewater treatment plant can only accept liquid content, not sludge or silt. *Please research the emptying of your swimming pool to ensure you do not cause damage to your pool structure or pump/mechanical system.*

What is the long-term plan for the stored silt?

Following a consenting process, at some sites the silt will remain permanently, while others are temporary holding sites and the silt will be removed once alternative sites or uses are identified. Clean silt will typically be used as topsoil or fill, while some silt may be used in construction projects.