

Silt collection FAQs

How do I arrange free collection?

To advise an address for cyclone-related silt collection (rural or residential) 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. The free collection only applies to silt that has been gathered and put into piles on your property ready for disposal. We will collect the silt, but as part of the service will not gather and pile it up on private property.

Please do not put silt on the verge outside of your property. The large amount of silt being moved onto roadsides from private properties is entering drains and gutters, which increases the risk of flooding even in a mild to moderate rain event. Please place your silt in a pile as close to the front of your property as possible, accessible by truck. If you have a small property which makes this difficult please advise the 0800 team when you call to arrange collection.

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?

No, we don't expect property owners to sift through their silt, but we do ask that easily separated flood-damaged household items (furniture, whiteware etc.) are sorted into a separate pile. Our 0800 team will ask residents to provide information on the general make-up of silt to allow the collection team to select the right site for disposal.

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 gather up the silt on my property for collection?

You may choose to do this yourself or use a contractor; you may wish to discuss options with your insurer.

Can Council help gather up silt on my property for Council collection?

No, You may choose to collect it yourself or use a contractor; you may wish to discuss options with your insurer.

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 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.