

Silage Stacks and Bales



Silage Stack

Silage forms an important part of the annual stock feed on many farms.

The leachate that is generated from silage stacks can be up to 40 times stronger than farm dairy shed effluent in terms of Biochemical Oxygen Demand

(BOD). It is a significant contaminant and is subject to control under the Resource Management Act 1991.

As a general guideline, the stack should be at least 50 metres from any watercourse (including drains) and should not be placed

in gullies or areas where water flows are likely to be high. For the sake of neighbours the stacks should not be placed close to property boundaries.

Stacks should be properly covered and sealed especially at the edges of the stacks to prevent rainwater soaking into the silage and creating more leachate. There should be no surface ponding or runoff from the site.

Wilting prior to placing in the stack will reduce leachate and help to maintain the food value of the ensiled material.

Silage can be made into bales and wrapped in plastic, which makes for easier storage and prevents any leachate escaping. The plastic wrapping from bales must be disposed of by a suitable method. Burning is not an acceptable practice. Recycle when possible or landfill at a council dump or a farm dump that complies with Regional plans.



Silage Bales

For further information and advice, contact Environment Bay of Plenty:

Telephone: 0800 ENV BOP (368 267)
 Facsimile: 0800 ENV FAX (368 329)
 Pollution Hotline: 0800 73 83 93
 Email: info@envbop.govt.nz
 Website: www.envbop.govt.nz
 Address: 5 Quay Street, P O Box 364, Whakatane, New Zealand

Farm dairy information is also available at: www.dexcel.co.nz

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