

4. Household Tips to Help Ocean Pollution

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Do your part to prevent water pollution in our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.

Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common household activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful.

Litter, oil, chemicals and other substances that are left on your yard or driveway can be blown or washed into storm drains that flow to the ocean. Over-watering your lawn and washing your car can also flush materials into the storm drains. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated.

You would never pour soap, fertilizers or oil into the ocean, so don't let them enter streets, gutters or storm drains. Follow the easy tips in this brochure to help prevent water pollution.

REMEMBER THE WATER IN YOUR STORM DRAIN IS NOT TREATED BEFORE IT ENTERS OUR WATERWAYS

For more information, please call the

Orange County Stormwater Program at (714) 567-6363 or visit

www.ocwatersheds.com.

To report spills, call the Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline at (714) 567-6363.

For emergencies, call 911.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while performing everyday household activities. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representative or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.

GENUINE
RECYCLED
PAPER

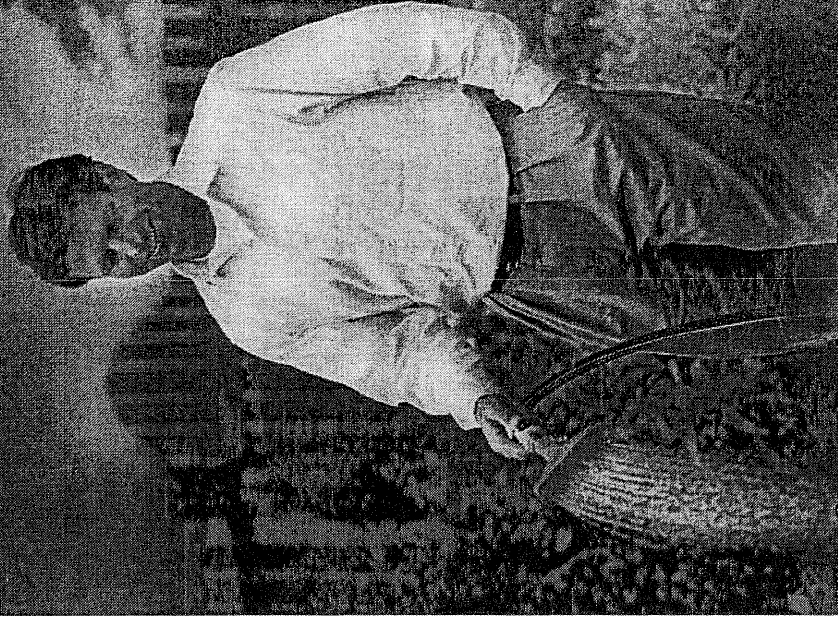


50% PRE-CONSUMER
AND
10% POST-CONSUMER



RECYCLE
USED OIL

Household Tips



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door

PROJECT
Pollution
PREVENTION

Pollution Prevention

Household Activities

- **Do not rinse spills with water!** Sweep outdoor spills and dispose of in the trash. For wet spills like oil, apply cat litter or another absorbent material, then sweep and bring to a household hazardous waste collection center (HHWCC).
- Securely cover trash cans.
- Take household hazardous waste to a household hazardous waste collection center.
- Store household hazardous waste in closed, labeled containers inside or under a cover.
- Do not hose down your driveway, sidewalk or patio. Sweep up debris and dispose of in trash.
- Always pick up after your pet. Flush waste down the toilet or dispose of in the trash.
- Bathe pets indoors or have them professionally groomed.

Household Hazardous Wastes include:

- ▲ Batteries
- ▲ Paint thinners, paint strippers and removers
- ▲ Adhesives
- ▲ Drain openers
- ▲ Oven cleaners
- ▲ Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- ▲ Herbicides and pesticides
- ▲ Fungicides/wood preservatives
- ▲ Automotive fluids and products
- ▲ Grease and rust solvents
- ▲ Thermometers and other products containing mercury
- ▲ Fluorescent lamps
- ▲ Cathode ray tubes, e.g. TVs, computer monitors
- ▲ Pool and spa chemicals

Gardening Activities

- Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizers, (measure, do not estimate amounts) and do not use if rain is predicted within 48 hours.
- Water your lawn and garden by hand to control the amount of water you use. Set irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. If water flows off your yard and onto your driveway or sidewalk, your system is over-watering.
- Mulch clippings or leave them on the lawn. If necessary, dispose in a green waste container.
- Cultivate your garden often to control weeds.

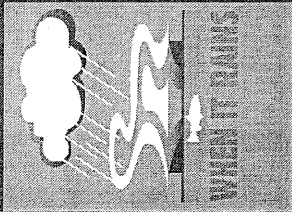
Washing and Maintaining Your Car

- Take your car to a commercial car wash whenever possible.
- Choose soaps, cleaners, or detergents labeled "non-toxic," "phosphate free" or "biodegradable." Vegetable and citrus-based products are typically safest for the environment, **but even these should not be allowed into the storm drain.**
- Shake floor mats into a trash can or vacuum to clean.

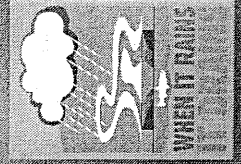
- Do not use acid-based wheel cleaners and "hose off" engine degreasers at home. They can be used at a commercial facility, which can properly process the washwater.
- **Do not dump washwater onto your driveway, sidewalk, street, gutter or storm drain.** Excess washwater should be disposed of in the sanitary sewers (through a sink, or toilet) or onto an absorbent surface like your lawn.
- Use a nozzle to turn off water when not actively washing down automobile.
- Monitor vehicles for leaks and place pans under leaks. Keep your car well maintained to stop and prevent leaks.
- Use cat litter or other absorbents and sweep to remove any materials deposited by vehicles. Contain sweepings and dispose of at a HHWCC.
- Perform automobile repair and maintenance under a covered area and use drip pans or plastic sheeting to keep spills and waste material from reaching storm drains.
- **Never pour oil or antifreeze in the street, gutter or storm drains.** Recycle these substances at a service station, HHWCC, or used oil recycling center. For the nearest Used Oil Collection Center call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.1800CLEANUP.ORG.

For locations and hours of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine and San Juan Capistrano, call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com.

5. After the Storm



After the Storm

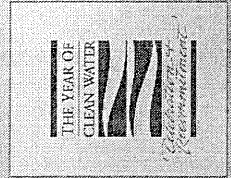


A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater

For more information contact:

Contact name
Contact agency
Address
Address 1
Phone number
E-mail address

or visit
www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater
www.epa.gov/nps

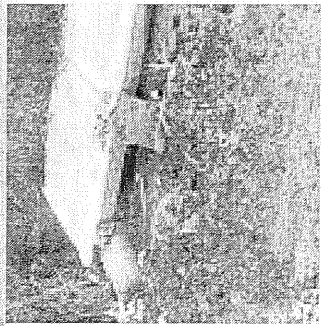


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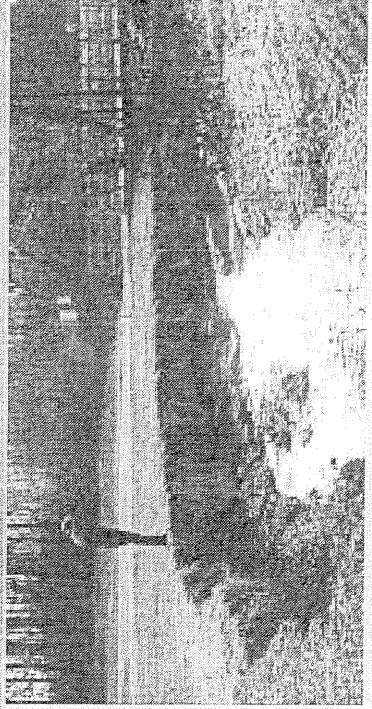
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What is stormwater runoff?



Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?



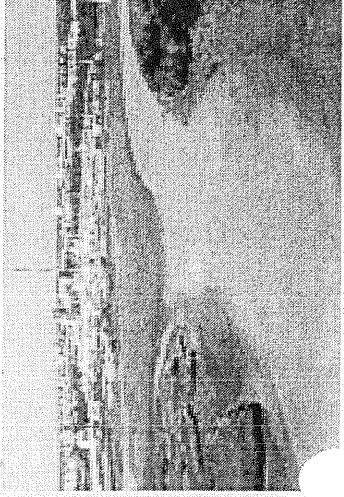
Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

The effects of pollution



Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- ◆ Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- ◆ Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- ◆ Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- ◆ Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- ◆ Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- ◆ Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.



Stormwater Pollution Solutions

Residential



Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.

Auto care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.

- ◆ Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- ◆ Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.

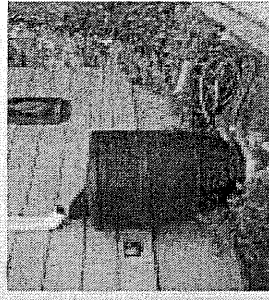


Education is essential to changing people's behavior. Signs and markers near storm drains warn residents that pollutants entering the drains will be carried untreated into a local waterbody.

Residential Landscaping

Permeable Pavement—Traditional concrete and asphalt don't allow water to soak into the ground. Instead these surfaces rely on storm drains to divert unwanted water. Permeable pavement systems allow rain and snowmelt to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff.

Rain Barrels—You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.



Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales—Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.



Vegetated Filter Strips—Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.

Septic systems

Leaking and poorly maintained septic

systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.

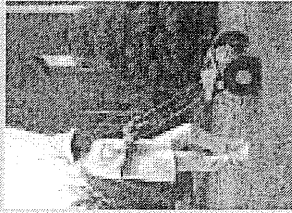
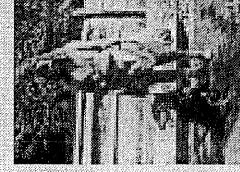
- ◆ Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years).
- ◆ Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.



Pet waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

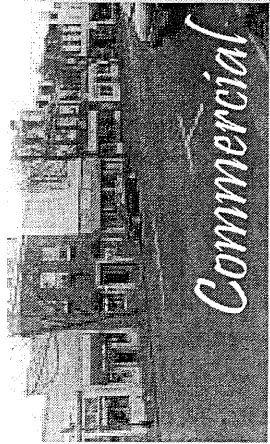
- ◆ When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.



Lawn care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

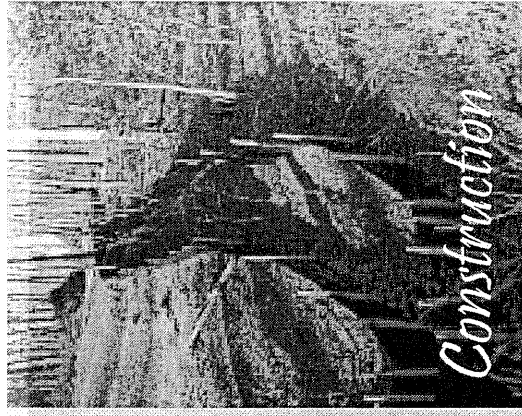
- ◆ Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- ◆ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- ◆ Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- ◆ Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.



Commercial

- Dirt, oil, and debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas can be washed into the storm sewer system and eventually enter local waterbodies.
- ◆ Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.
 - ◆ Cover grease storage and dumpsters and keep them clean to avoid leaks.
 - ◆ Report any chemical spill to the local hazardous waste cleanup team. They'll know the best way to keep spills from harming the environment.

- Erosion controls that aren't maintained can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the stormwater system. Construction vehicles can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater and deposited into local waterbodies.
- ◆ Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site.
 - ◆ Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover, and other sediment and erosion controls and properly maintain them, especially after rainstorms.
 - ◆ Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects, and seed and mulch bare areas as soon as possible.



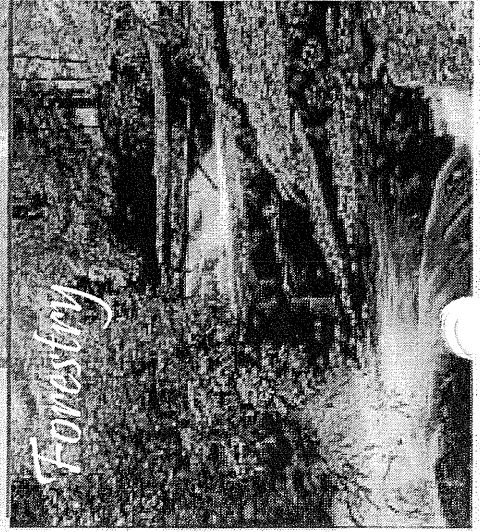
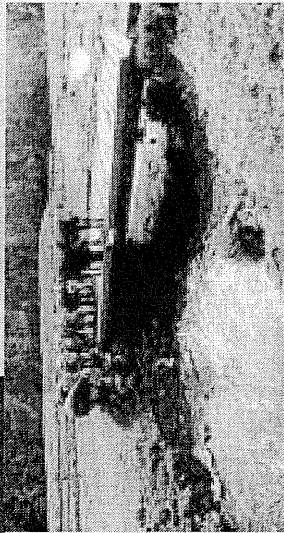
Construction



Agriculture

Lack of vegetation on streambanks can lead to erosion. Overgrazed pastures can also contribute excessive amounts of sediment to local waterbodies. Excess fertilizers and pesticides can poison aquatic animals and lead to destructive algae blooms. Livestock in streams can contaminate waterways with bacteria, making them unsafe for human contact.

- ◆ Keep livestock away from streambanks and provide them a water source away from waterbodies.
- ◆ Store and apply manure away from waterbodies and in accordance with a nutrient management plan.
- ◆ Vegetate riparian areas along waterways.
- ◆ Rotate animal grazing to prevent soil erosion in fields.
- ◆ Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution.



Forestry

Improperly managed logging operations can result in erosion and sedimentation.

- ◆ Conduct preharvest planning to prevent erosion and lower costs.
- ◆ Use logging methods and equipment that minimize soil disturbance.
- ◆ Plan and design skid trails, yard areas, and truck access roads to minimize stream crossings and avoid disturbing the forest floor.
- ◆ Construct stream crossings so that they minimize erosion and physical changes to streams.
- ◆ Expedite revegetation of cleared areas.



Automotive Facilities

Uncovered fueling stations allow spills to be washed into storm drains. Cars waiting to be repaired can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater.

- ◆ Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials.
- ◆ Provide cover over fueling stations and design or retrofit facilities for spill containment.
- ◆ Properly maintain fleet vehicles to prevent oil, gas, and other discharges from being washed into local waterbodies.
- ◆ Install and maintain oil/water separators.