

# STOP STORMWATER POLLUTION... YOU'RE THE SOLUTION !!



As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, pet waste, oil, paint, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into a stormwater drain system or directly to a lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters a stormwater drain system is discharged without being treated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. By practicing these healthy household habits, homeowners can keep pollutants off the ground and out of the stormwater drain system.



## Healthy Household Habits

### Lawn & Garden

- ⇒ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Avoid application if rain is in the forecast.
- ⇒ Select native plants and grasses for your yard. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- ⇒ Sweep up sidewalks, patios, and decks of yard debris and dispose of it in a covered compost pile or take it to the dump. Do not hose yard debris into street gutters or storm drains!
- ⇒ Don't over water your lawn, letting water run off into the storm drain.
- ⇒ Vegetate or mulch bare spots in your yard to prevent erosion.
- ⇒ Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Decomposed granite or pavers set in sand are good alternatives for concrete paths or walkways.

### Pet Care

- ⇒ Pick up pet waste. Pet waste left on the ground will be washed into nearby storm drains, lakes, rivers, and streams.
- ⇒ Flushing small animal pet waste is the best disposal method, or you can secure it in a plastic bag and dispose of it in your trash.

*In recent years, federal and state regulations have been created to protect stormwater quality. These laws require local jurisdictions to develop and implement stormwater management programs. The state requires these programs to include educational outreach to inform the public and businesses of the effects of their activities on stormwater quality. Local ordinances prohibit the disposal of anything except stormwater into storm drainage systems.*



### **For More Information**

Stormwater Quality Program  
(530) 745-7500 or  
stormwater@placer.ca.gov  
Or visit us on the web at  
<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Departments/Works/StrmWtr.aspx>

Household Hazardous Waste, Disposal and Recycling Information  
(916) 645-5230, ext. 1010 or  
[http://www.placer.ca.gov/hhs/env\\_health/Hazmat.aspx](http://www.placer.ca.gov/hhs/env_health/Hazmat.aspx)

### **Home Repair & Improvement**

- ⇒ Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains, culverts, ditches, etc. and protect them from incoming pollutants.
- ⇒ Properly dispose of construction debris either in home trash or in your local landfill.
- ⇒ Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners sparingly.
- ⇒ Clean up hazardous materials spills immediately and dispose of them properly.
- ⇒ Buy nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.
- ⇒ Clean painting equipment in the sink, not outdoors.
- ⇒ Dispose of excess paints, cleaners, solvents, etc. through a household hazardous waste collection program.

### **Swimming Pool & Spa**

- ⇒ Drain your swimming pool only when a test kit does not detect any chlorine or other toxic chemicals.
- ⇒ Store pool and spa chemicals in a covered area to avoid exposure to stormwater.
- ⇒ Wash pool filter in a sink or on the lawn to prevent stormwater contamination.
- ⇒ Control algae by regulating chlorine levels and by using a pool cover to block sunlight. Do not use copper-based algae control products.
- ⇒ Check with the Sewer District before discharging swimming pool water into a public sewer. For more information on sanitary sewer requirements, contact your local wastewater authority.

### **Vehicle Washing & Repair**

- ⇒ Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to reduce the amount of car wash water runoff. Use a spray nozzle to prevent water waste.
- ⇒ Check your vehicles, machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make vehicle repairs as soon as possible.
- ⇒ Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material such as kitty litter. Do not hose spills into the street, gutters or storm drains.
- ⇒ Always recycle automotive fluids at appropriate disposal sites. Do not dump them down the storm drain or onto the ground.

### **Septic System Use & Maintenance**

- ⇒ Have your septic system inspected by a professional at least every 3 years, and have the septic tank pumped as necessary.
- ⇒ Do not drive or park vehicles on the septic system drain field. Plant only grass over and near the drain field.
- ⇒ Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals can destroy the biological treatment taking place in the system.

### **Cleaning**

- ⇒ Send cleaning/wash water down a sink or toilet, not into the street, gutters or storm drains.
- ⇒ Direct pressure-washing runoff onto an unpaved surface or vegetated area, not into the street, gutters, storm drains, or public sewers.