

## Ten Things You Can Do to Prevent Stormwater Runoff Pollution

- ⇒ Never dump anything down storm drains or into waterways.
- ⇒ Use fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides sparingly; don't overwater your lawn.
- ⇒ Take your car to the car wash instead of washing it in the driveway.
- ⇒ Dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations. Use an absorbent like kitty litter or sand to soak up oil and antifreeze spills. Sweep up the mixture, bag it and place it in the garbage.
- ⇒ Pick up after your pet; dispose of waste in a trash receptacle.
- ⇒ Have your septic tank professionally inspected every 3 years and pumped regularly (every 3-5 years).
- ⇒ Prevent soil erosion, vegetate bare spots and avoid overgrazing of horses and livestock.
- ⇒ During construction activities, minimize disturbed areas, stabilize slopes, avoid disturbing natural channels and limit the amount of dirt tracked out of the project site.
- ⇒ Cover piles of loose landscaping materials, such as sand, bark and dirt.
- ⇒ Do not disturb vegetation or soil in and around natural waterways.



## View our other informational brochures:

### Homeowners:

- ⇒ Homeowners Information
- ⇒ Best Management Practices for Homeowners
- ⇒ Used Oil/Household Hazardous Waste

### Construction:

- ⇒ Best Management Practices for the West Slope/ Truckee River Watershed
- ⇒ Best Management Practices for the Tahoe Basin
- ⇒ Construction Processes for Stormwater Quality Protection

### Post-Construction:

- ⇒ BMP Sizing

### Business/Industrial:

- ⇒ Stormwater Compliance for Automotive Businesses
- ⇒ Retail and Non-Retail Gasoline Outlets
- ⇒ Best Management Practices for Mobile Cleaners
- ⇒ Tips for Using Concrete and Mortar
- ⇒ Landscaping, Gardening and Pest Control for Businesses
- ⇒ Stormwater Pollution Prevention for the Food Service Industry
- ⇒ Car Washing Best Management Practices
- ⇒ Portable Toilet Companies

**To Report a Water Quality Issue:  
Call (530) 745-7555**



# PLACER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND FACILITIES



The goal of Placer County's Stormwater Quality Program is to protect the health of all of the County's creeks, streams, rivers, and lakes.



Placer County is subject to Federal and State regulations for Stormwater Quality. The regulations are incorporated into Placer

County's Stormwater Quality Program which includes educational outreach to inform members of the public and businesses of the effects of their activities, controls on construction activities, standards for design of new developments, and a program to assure that County operations themselves are clean. County Ordinance 8.28 effectively prohibits the disposal of anything except clean water into our ditches, creeks, and streams. The County implements the program countywide. The cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Loomis, Rocklin, and Roseville, each have their own separate permits. The County has three state permitted areas: Tahoe, Truckee, and Western Placer. In addition, the County has a water quality monitoring plan for the Truckee River Watershed which requires ongoing monitoring in Martis Creek, Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, and the Truckee

## ***Impacts of Stormwater Discharges on Water Bodies***

### ***What is stormwater runoff?***

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and roads 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 rapidly flow in large quantities into a storm drain system or directly to a lake, stream, river or wetland.

**Stormwater is not treated and flows directly into natural waterways. Contaminants harm fish and wildlife and pollute the water we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.**

### ***Non-Stormwater Discharges:***

Pollutants such as motor oil, grease, automotive fluids, pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, sediment, and litter can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

Household hazardous wastes such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. People and wildlife can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.



Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for salmon to spawn and aquatic plants to grow.

Debris such as plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles and cigarette butts can choke, suffocate or entangle aquatic life like fish, turtles and birds.



Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

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 cannot exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

**Stormwater Quality Division**  
**(530) 745-7557**  
**[stormwtrquality@placer.ca.gov](mailto:stormwtrquality@placer.ca.gov)**  
**3091 County Center Drive, Suite 220,**  
**Auburn, CA 95603**  
**<http://www.placer.ca.gov/Stormwater>**

**Household Hazardous Waste Disposal**  
**and Recycling Information**  
**(916) 543-3960**  
**<http://www.placer.ca.gov/recycle>**