

## **STORM WATER FACTS RESIDENTS SHOULD KNOW**

A new storm water law, issued by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, has gone into effect mandating the City of Oceanside, along with other San Diego region jurisdictions, control the amount of pollutants flowing into our storm drains and to our beaches.

These news laws are an extension of the Federal Clean Water Act and directly affect you and your activities.

Under this new law the following residential activities are illegal:

- \*water-washing your sidewalk and driveway
- \*dumping hazardous chemicals and materials into storm drains
- \*discharging swimming pool water with chlorine
- \*allowing pet waste and lawn clippings to enter a storm drain.

Under this law, the City of Oceanside must enforce these new regulations. Fines for violations begin at \$100.

The goal of this new law is to improve water quality for our inland waterbodies and beaches.

This new law forces us to recognize the ways in which our daily activities degrade water quality and change our behaviors accordingly. We must work together to improve water quality in our creeks, rivers and at our beaches.

## **CONTACTS FOR MORE INFORMATION**

To report an illegal discharge of pollutants into a storm drain during business hours contact:

**City of Oceanside  
Water Utilities Department  
760-435-5800**

For more information about Green Waste and household hazardous waste disposal contact:

**Waste Management  
760-439-2824**

If you would like additional information on urban runoff or our creek cleanup events, log-on to the Oceanside Clean Water Program website at [www.oceansidecleanwaterprogram.org](http://www.oceansidecleanwaterprogram.org)



**City of Oceanside  
Water Utilities Department  
Clean Water Program  
300 North Coast Highway  
Oceanside, CA 92054  
Phone: 760-435-5800  
Fax: 760-435-5814**

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## **Urban Runoff Guidelines for**

# **OCEANSIDE RESIDENTS**



## YOU CAN HELP PROTECT OCEANSIDE WATERSHEDS

As a coastal community, Oceanside relies on clean water for its residents, healthy beaches, public safety and a desirable environment for wildlife.



When it rains, many of the pollutants that lurk on our streets, sidewalks, parking lots and gutters wash down storm drains and into the nearest body of water. Oceanside is home to four watersheds: Loma Alta, Buena Vista, Agua Hedionda, and the San Luis Rey Watershed, along with many other bodies of water.



Unfortunately, storm drains do not filter water or debris, nor are they connected to the sanitary sewer system. Any pollutant that flows into a storm drain ends up in our watersheds, waterbodies or the ocean.

Urban runoff pollutants come from many different sources, such as leaking cars, pet waste, chemicals, building materials, vegetative waste, dirt and sediments, and litter. The good news is that urban runoff pollution is preventable!

As Oceanside residents and/or business owners, we simply need to work together and change a few habits to benefit our health, our families and our community. Remember every bit of pollution hurts.



## HOW DO WE CONTRIBUTE TO WATER POLLUTION?

**Automobiles:** Oil, grease, radiator fluid, antifreeze and copper from brake pads are just a few of the common pollutants automobiles contribute to storm water pollution. Improperly maintained vehicles track oil, hazardous fluids and dust particles onto our streets and eventually into the ocean, not to mention pollute the air we breathe.



**Household chemicals:** Household hazardous products, improperly disposed of into storm drains, cause significant harm to beachgoers and wildlife habitats by adding toxic and/or nutrient enriching chemicals to the water. Such hazardous products include pesticides, insecticides and fertilizers, bleach, aerosols, drain cleaners and certain detergents labeled "toxic."

**Lawn Care:** Blowing or hosing excess yard waste into the storm drains not only clogs the inlet but adds too much decomposing materials to water, taking oxygen out of the water and suffocating aquatic wildlife. Additionally, over-applying pesticides and fertilizers simply allows more of these chemicals to wash down the storm drain and into our ocean.



**Home Maintenance:** Washing building materials, such as stucco, paint, dry wall mud, cement and grout, contribute polluting sediments to our waterways and clog storm drain pipes when they harden.

**Pet Waste:** While many people believe animal fecal waste is good for fertilization, it is actually very harmful to our aquatic environment. Pet waste contains many bacteria and viruses which, if left on the ground, contaminate storm water and, ultimately, our ocean.



## THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT STORM WATER POLLUTION

Keep your automobiles properly maintained to avoid leaking of fluids onto streets and into storm drains.

When performing an oil change, make sure to dispose and recycle your used motor oil at a facility or business which accepts used oil. Check with your local auto parts store for more information.

Store household chemicals in a covered, contained area to avoid seepage into rain water.

Unwanted or unused chemicals should be disposed of at a hazardous waste collection site. Waste Management provides such a service.

Instead of using products which are toxic, try switching to natural or "non-toxic" alternatives for cleaning.

Sweep excess lawn clippings, leaves and other yard waste and deposit in a "green waste" bin provided by Waste Management, or in a compost mixer.

Avoid over-watering your lawn and garden. By installing a drip irrigation or micro-spray system, less water is wasted as runoff.

Don't apply chemicals to your lawn or garden before irrigation or an anticipated rain event. Much of the chemicals will simply runoff onto the street.

If an accidental spill of any liquid building material or chemical occurs, absorbents or kitty litter must be applied immediately to prevent the spill from entering a storm drain.

Do not wash building materials onto the street. If using water for cutting tile or other activities, make sure the water is diverted to a grassy or other absorbent area.

Make sure to pick up your pet's waste as soon as possible. Carry a baggy and scooper when walking your animal.