

WATER UTILITIES

CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

What is the Clean Water Program?

As part of Green Oceanside, the Clean Water Program strives to protect and enhance the value of our rivers, beaches and streams through pollution prevention. As a coastal community, we rely on clean water for the public safety of our residents, our economy, and a desirable environment for wildlife. The Clean Water Program's purpose is to comply with Federal and State laws such as the Clean Water Act that aim to protect our waterways. Routine activities include inspections of local businesses to prevent contamination of storm water runoff, responding to citizen concerns, and educating the public on ways to prevent surface water pollution.

What is storm water pollution and why is it important?

When it rains, pollutants such as metals, dirt, fertilizers, oils and pesticides are washed down our streets and gutters into the nearest storm drain. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, our storm drains empty to the nearest waterway without any treatment to remove these contaminants. Additionally, pollution can occur when it's not raining from other sources of runoff, such as broken sprinklers or car washing in the street.



Current Projects and Activities

This winter has seen welcome record rainfall across California after years of drought conditions. While all of this rain is a welcome sight for our water supply, Clean Water Program staff have been in the field educating business owners on ways to comply with storm water regulations and prevent polluted runoff from leaving their property. Other current projects include inspections of the City's storm drains to identify sources of pollution, and ongoing studies to eliminate trash from reaching our creeks and rivers.

How can I help to improve water quality in Oceanside?

You can help prevent pollution of our waterways by reporting illegal dumping or runoff into a storm drain, or if you see water running in the street and it is not raining. Your information will help protect the health of humans, wildlife, and the livelihoods that depend on healthy waterways. You can also call the Oceanside Urban Runoff Hotline at **760-435-4500** to report information.

Additionally, Oceanside residents can do their part to improve water quality by following a few simple steps:

- Don't apply fertilizers and pesticides before it rains.
- Don't litter. Pick up trash on the ground and dispose of it in a trash can.
- Pick up after your pet – it's your doody!

- Don't allow irrigation water to runoff your property.
- Prevent soil erosion around your home using methods like mulch or drought tolerant plantings.
- Repair leaking vehicles.
- Recycle used motor oil at your local auto supply store.
- Wash vehicles in the grass or at the car wash.
- Don't pour grease and vegetable oil down your sink.
- Report any water running in the street when it is not raining or someone dumping something in the storm drain or curb and gutter by calling the Urban Runoff Hotline at 760-435-4500.

Upcoming Events

Please visit the Green Oceanside homepage (www.green-oceanside.org) to learn more about upcoming events and how you can get involved with one of our City-sponsored trash cleanups, and learn how to be a superhero for the environment!

Remember...Only Rain in the Storm Drain!

Report any water running in the street when it is not raining or someone dumping something in the storm drain or curb and gutter by calling the Urban Runoff Hotline at **(760) 435-4500**.

