

Only Rain Down the Drain

Storm drains are designed to carry only rainwater. Therefore, they flow directly to local creeks, the San Lorenzo River, and into Monterey Bay without receiving any type of treatment. Storm drains are separate from the City's sanitary sewer system, which treats wastewater from your sink, toilet, and other indoor drains.

Whether you live right next to the ocean or not, polluted runoff from your home will eventually reach Monterey Bay through the storm drains or the nearest creek.

Even if polluted runoff doesn't immediately reach the storm drain or the water evaporates, the problem isn't gone. Pollutants still remain on the pavement and will be washed into the storm drain the next time it rains.

Storm water pollution is toxic to fish and other wildlife, and it degrades our beaches and ocean. The tips in this brochure will help you reduce pollution from your home activities and protect our environment.

For more information,
call the City's Environmental
Compliance Inspectors at 420-6050
or the Environmental Projects Analyst
at 420-5160.



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Home Maintenance, Painting and Repair



Pollution Prevention Tips



Taking Care of Your Home and the Environment

Painting

Oil-based paints, paint thinners, and cleaning solvents must be disposed of as hazardous wastes.

- Never rinse paint brushes or paint containers in the street or storm drain.
- After painting, brush out excess paint onto newspaper or cardboard prior to cleaning brushes and rollers. If using latex paints, the brush or roller may be rinsed in the sink. If using oil based paints, the brush or roller needs to be cleaned with paint thinner.
- Drain leftover paint from the roller pan back into the paint can. Spray the paint remaining in spray guns and hoses back into the paint can.
- Reuse paint thinners by filtering or letting the paint residue settle out.
 Dispose of thinners as Household Hazardous Waste. Never pour them on the ground or into storm drains.
- Used paint can be recycled at the County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility. Please call **454-2606** for recycling and disposal information.



General Home Maintenance

Some common household wastes, such as motor oil, antifreeze, oil-based paints, pesticides, and herbicides, are hazardous wastes! They must be disposed of properly—they cannot be poured down the sink, toilet, on the ground, or into the storm drain.

• Do not plumb the drain from your dishwasher or washing machine to outside areas because soapy wastes belong in the sanitary sewer—not the environment.



- Dispose of soapy water, such as water from window or carpet cleaning, into the sink or toilet—not the storm drain. If you hire a cleaning service, ask them where they discharge the wastewater. Be sure that they do not discharge it into a storm drain.
- Keep garbage can lids on securely. Also, keep recyclable items inside of the recycling bins. Loose debris and litter often are blown into the street and end up clogging gutters and polluting our waterways.
- Sweep walkways and driveways rather than hosing them off. If you must use water to clean them, sweep first and don't use any soap or cleansers.

Concrete, Masonry, and Asphalt

Paving and construction materials, if allowed to reach the street via wind or rain, clog our gutters, storm drains, and creeks.

- Use a tarp under mixers or on areas used for mixing.
- Cement and plaster particles are particularly susceptible to being blown away by the wind. Be sure to cover and store open bags, loose materials, and debris so that wind or rain will not carry them into the street or storm drain.
- Sweep, instead of hosing down, when cleaning up.
- Dispose of small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, and mortar in the trash.
- Collect and reuse excess gravel and sand, or give them away to a neighbor.
- Rinse off mixers, tools, and other equipment in a dirt area where the water can soak into the ground and won't run off into the street or storm drain.
- If you contract out the work, be sure that the contractor abides by the City Municipal Code and these pollution prevention tips.

Pollution prevention can be easy—most of the time it only involves making small changes in the way you do things around the house and in your yard.