



Home Maintenance and Repair

Pollution Prevention Tips

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

Painting

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



- Don't rinse paint brushes or paint cans in the gutter or over a catch basin. Instead, brush paint onto newspaper or cardboard before cleaning brushes and rollers.
- If using *latex paint*, the brush or roller may be rinsed in the sink. Empty paint cans may be put in the trash.
- If using *oil based paint*, the brush or roller needs to be cleaned with paint thinner. Paint thinners can be reused by filtering or letting the paint settle out.
- Waste oil based paints, paint thinners and cleaning solvents must be disposed as Household Hazardous Waste.
- Used paint can be brought to the County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) drop-off site at the City's Resource Recovery Facility at 605 Dimeo Lane. Drop-offs are free and accepted only on Saturdays. Please call 831-420-6270 or 831-454-2606 for more information.

General Home Maintenance

Some common products, such as motor oil, radiator fluid, paint thinner, oil-based paints, pesticides, and herbicides, need to be disposed of as hazardous waste! They cannot be poured down the sink or toilet, emptied into a catch basin or street gutter, dumped on the ground, or put in the trash/garbage.

- Pour cleaning or soapy water into a sink or toilet. Please don't dump fluids on your driveway, sidewalk, or in a gutter or catch basin! If you hire a cleaning service, ask what they do with the wastewater to ensure it will be properly disposed of.
- Close garbage can lids to prevent loose debris and litter from blowing out or overflowing onto the ground. Securing lids will also help prevent animals from getting into your cans!
- Pick up pet waste and dispose of in trash. If left outside, it can be washed into the storm drain system and Monterey Bay. Cat waste has been linked to disease affecting sea otters.
- Sweep your driveway and walkways instead of hosing down. This saves water too!



- When cleaning out your garage, take unwanted chemicals, such as solvents and pesticides, to the County Household Hazardous Waste drop-off site located at the City's Resource Recovery Facility mentioned above.
- If you have a laundry to landscape graywater system, be sure to turn the valve directing laundry water to the sanitary sewer when the rainy season begins.
- Control erosion from small construction or landscaping projects and prevent dirt and debris from entering gutters, catch basins, and waterways.
- Landscaping can help control runoff and erosion. Use plants to cover bare soil, and to absorb and percolate rainwater.



Small Home Repair Projects

Concrete and construction materials can clog catch basin inlets and pollute waterways if spilled, dumped, or carried by wind/rain into the street or gutters.

- Mix materials away from gutters and storm drains, and use tarps under mixers or in mixing areas if possible. This will help prevent particles and spills from entering the street and storm drain system.
- When pouring concrete, keep runoff from the street or storm drain.
- Rinse off mixers, tools, and other equipment over dirt where the water can soak into the ground and not run off into the street.
- Cover and store open bags of materials, such as cement and plaster, so wind or rain can't carry particles into the street or storm drain.
- Small amounts of leftover dry concrete, grout, and mortar can go in the trash.
- Sweep, instead of hosing down, when cleaning up.
- Apply asphalt sealant to driveways when rain is not forecast.
- If you hire a contractor, be sure the contractor is familiar with and abides by the City Municipal Code and these pollution prevention guidelines.



For more information or complaints, please call:

City Environmental Compliance at 831-420-6050; or
 City Public Works Environmental Project Analyst at 831-420-5160

To report spills or an illegal discharge, please call:

City Environmental Compliance at 831-420-6050 (during business hours)
 After business hours: 911

Only Rain Down the Drain!

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