



# Gardens and Landscaping

## Pools & Spas

### 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!*

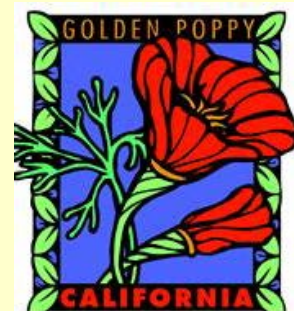
#### Garden and Landscaping

Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fertilizers

- **Eliminate the use of pesticides and herbicides if possible! Try using "natural" alternatives first!**
- If you must use pesticides or herbicides, use the least toxic products available and only if there is an actual problem.
- Use the minimum amount of pesticides or herbicides necessary, and read the label for the correct dosage.
- Try not to buy large containers of pesticides or herbicides unless you are sure they will be used up within a reasonable amount of time.
- Leave a one-foot buffer zone between your lawn or garden and any pavement (such as the driveway or sidewalk), where you do not apply any pesticides or herbicides. This will reduce the amount of chemicals being washed into the street by sprinklers or rain.



- Don't apply pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers if rain is forecast. Rain can carry these chemicals into our streets and gutters which flow to the nearest creek or river—and into Monterey Bay *without any treatment*.
- Don't prepare pesticides, herbicides or fertilizers over the gutter in case of spills.
- Please don't dump leftover pesticides or herbicides into a storm drain or street gutter, nor an indoor sink, because they are hazardous and the wastewater treatment plant was not designed to treat them.
- Please dispose of unwanted pesticides and herbicides properly. Contact the County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility at **454-2606** for disposal information.
- Try planting native species in your yard! They generally grow better, need less water, and often don't need any chemicals to look good.



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### General Maintenance and Irrigation



- **Don't blow or rake leaves into the street or gutter because they can clog storm drains and local streams too.**
- Collect lawn and garden clippings, e.g. pruning and tree trimmings, and compost or dispose of appropriately.
- Do not over-water plants causing runoff to occur. Runoff water may carry soil, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides into the storm drains and local streams.
- Be sure to follow the City's requirements for water use and water conservation. For information about water conservation, including rebates, please see: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/water/conservation>
- For information about drought requirements, please see: <http://www.cityofsantacruz.com/departments/water/drought>
- If you hire a landscaper, make sure that they follow these guidelines.

## Pool, Spa and Fountain Maintenance

### Pool, spa and fountain water cannot be drained into the street, gutter, catch basin or storm drain inlet.

- Discharge swimming pool, spa and fountain water into the sanitary sewer. Preferably drain the water into a sewer "clean-out" on your property, or discharge into an appropriate inside drain.
  - De-chlorinated spa water can be drained *slowly* to your landscaping if the ground can absorb all the water and there's no runoff to the street or sidewalk.
- Be sure to allow sufficient time since chlorine was last added to ensure it has "off-gassed" or broken down.
- Filters should not be cleaned in the gutter or over a catch basin/storm drain inlet.
  - If you hire a maintenance service, be sure they abide by these guidelines.



**For more information, please call:** City Environmental Compliance at 831-420-6050, or City Public Works Environmental Project Analyst at 831-420-5160

**To report spills or illegal discharges, please call:** City Environmental Compliance hotline at 831-420-6046, or 911 (after business hours)

***Only Rain Down the Drain!***