

Only Rain Down the Drain

Storm drains are designed to carry only rainwater. They flow directly to creeks and rivers and into Monterey Bay without any type of treatment. Pesticides, herbicides, fertilizer, pet waste and detergents are pollutants commonly found in runoff from homes. Even if polluted runoff evaporates, the problem isn't gone. Pollutants remain on the pavement and are picked up in storm water the next time it rains. Polluted runoff poisons fish and other wildlife, and it degrades our beaches and ocean. These tips will help you reduce pollution from your home activities and protect our environment.

Pollution Prevention Tips

Small changes can make a

BIG
difference.



Pollution Prevention Tips

Tending Your Garden, Pool & Spa



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Garden and Landscaping

Stop using pesticides and herbicides if possible. Try using "natural" alternatives first. To learn more about pesticide alternatives, go to

http://www.ecoaction.org/Programs/Pollution_Prevention/Integrated_Pest_Management/factsheets.htm or <http://www.pesticide.org/factsheets.html>

- Use pesticides and herbicides only if there is an actual problem—not as a preventative measure.
- Do not buy large containers of pesticides unless they will be completely used up.
- Apply the minimum amount of pesticides or herbicides, and carefully follow the instructions on the label.
- Be careful not to apply pesticides or herbicides before it rains. Rain washes pesticides directly into storm drains.
- Do not mix or prepare pesticides or herbicides near a storm drain.
- Pick up pet waste and dispose in the garbage.

Pool & Spa Maintenance

Never discharge swimming pool or spa water to the street, gutter, or storm drain. In urban areas, discharge swimming pool and spa water into the sanitary sewer, preferably via a "sewer clean-out" on your property. For tips on how to locate your sewer clean-out, see <http://www.sanjoseca.gov/esd/water-pollution-prevention/plcpoolwater.htm>

- Swimming pool and spa water may be slowly drained to landscaping or lawns as long as the chlorine has dissipated, and the water does not run into the street or storm drain.
- Clean pool or spa filters in the sink, or over grass or gravel—never in the street or near storm drains.

Pollution prevention can

be easy. Small changes in

the way you do things

around the house and in

your yard make a big

difference.

For more information call:

City of Santa Cruz

Environmental Compliance

831-420-6050

City of Watsonville

Utilities Customer Service

831-768-3133

County of Santa Cruz

Sanitation Operations

831-477-3907

