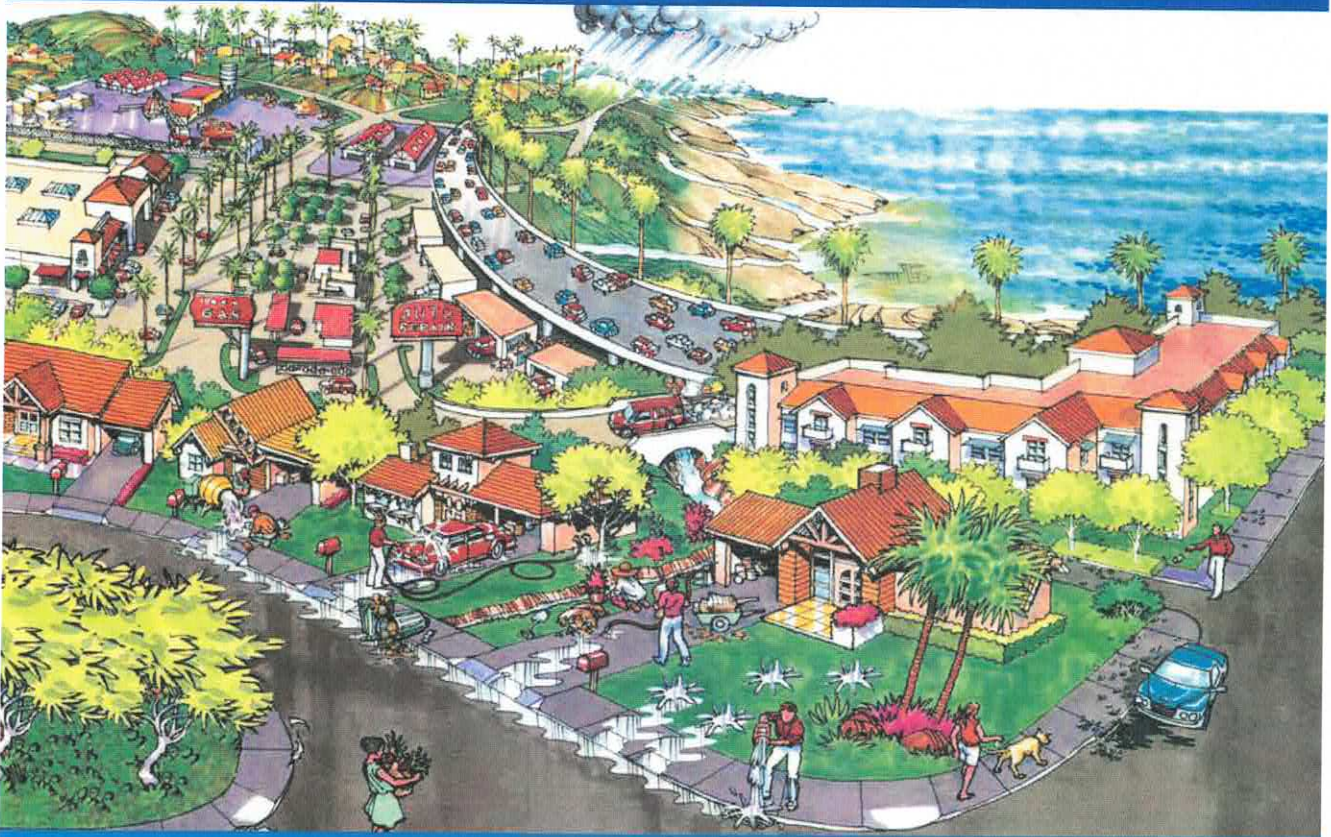


The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door



Never allow pollutants to enter the street, gutter or storm drain!

Follow these simple steps to help reduce water pollution:

Household Activities

- Do not rinse spills with water. Use dry cleanup methods such as applying cat litter or another absorbent material, sweep and dispose of in the trash. Take items such as used or excess batteries, oven cleaners, automotive fluids, painting products and cathode ray tubes, like TVs and computer monitors, to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC).
- For a HHWCC near you call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com.
- Do not hose down your driveway, sidewalk or patio to the street, gutter or storm drain. Sweep up debris and dispose of it in the trash.

Automotive

- Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash whenever possible. If you wash your vehicle at home, choose soaps, cleaners, or detergents labeled non-toxic, phosphate-free or biodegradable. Vegetable and citrus-based products are typically safest for the environment.
- Do not allow washwater from vehicle washing to drain into the street, gutter or storm drain. Excess washwater should be disposed of in the sanitary sewer (through a sink or toilet) or onto an absorbent surface like your lawn.
- Monitor your vehicles for leaks and place a pan under leaks. Keep your vehicles well maintained to stop and prevent leaks.
- Never pour oil or antifreeze in the street, gutter or storm drain. Recycle these substances at a service station, a waste oil collection center or used oil recycling center. For the nearest Used Oil Collection Center call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.1800cleanup.org.

Pool Maintenance

- Pool and spa water must be dechlorinated and free of excess acid, alkali or color to be allowed in the street, gutter or storm drain.
- When it is not raining, drain dechlorinated pool and spa water directly into the sanitary sewer.
- Some cities may have ordinances that do not allow pool water to be disposed of in the storm drain. Check with your city.

Landscape and Gardening

- Do not over-water. Water your lawn and garden by hand to control the amount of water you use or set irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. If water flows off your yard onto your driveway or sidewalk, your system is over-watering. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.
- Do not rake or blow leaves, clippings or pruning waste into the street, gutter or storm drain. Instead, dispose of waste by composting, hauling it to a permitted landfill, or as green waste through your city's recycling program.
- Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizer, (measure, do not estimate amounts) and do not use if rain is predicted within 48 hours.
- Take unwanted pesticides to a HHWCC to be recycled. For locations and hours of HHWCC, call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com.

Trash

- Place trash and litter that cannot be recycled in securely covered trash cans.
- Whenever possible, buy recycled products.
- Remember: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.

Pet Care

- Always pick up after your pet. Flush waste down the toilet or dispose of it in the trash. Pet waste, if left outdoors, can wash into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- If possible, bathe your pets indoors. If you must bathe your pet outside, wash it on your lawn or another absorbent/permeable surface to keep the washwater from entering the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Follow directions for use of pet care products and dispose of any unused products at a HHWCC.

Common Pollutants

Home Maintenance

- Detergents, cleaners and solvents
- Oil and latex paint
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Outdoor trash and litter

Lawn and Garden

- Pet and animal waste
- Pesticides
- Clippings, leaves and soil
- Fertilizer

Automobile

- Oil and grease
- Radiator fluids and antifreeze
- Cleaning chemicals
- Brake pad dust

RUNOFF, RAINWATER AND REUSE

Where Does Water Runoff Go?

Stormwater, or water from rainfall events, and runoff from outdoor water use such as sprinklers and hoses flows from homes directly into catch basins and the storm drain system. After entering the storm drain, the water flows untreated into streams, rivers, bays and ultimately the Pacific Ocean. Runoff can come from lawns, gardens, driveways, sidewalks and roofs. As it flows over hard, impervious surfaces, it picks up pollutants. Some pollutants carried by the water runoff include fish, pet waste, pesticides, fertilizer, motor oil and more.

Water Conservation

Pollution not only impairs the water quality for habitat and recreation, it can also reduce the water available for reuse. Runoff allowed to soak into the ground is deemed as it percolates through the soil, replenishing depleted groundwater supplies. Groundwater provides at least 50% of the total water for drinking and other indoor household activities in north and central Orange County. When land is covered with roads, parking lots, homes, etc., there is less land to take in the water and more hard surfaces over which the water can flow.

In Orange County, 60-70% of water used by residents and businesses goes to irrigation and other outdoor uses. Reusing rainwater to irrigate our lawn not only reduces the impact of water pollution from runoff, but it also is a great way to conserve our precious water resources and replenish our groundwater basin.

What is Low Impact Development (LID)?

Low Impact Development (LID) is a form of development that seeks to maintain the natural hydrologic character of an area. LID provides a more sustainable and pollution-preventative approach to water management.

New water quality regulations require implementation of LID in larger new developments and encourage implementation of LID and other water quality practices in existing residential developments. Encouraging implementation of LID in your home or business can reduce pollution in our environment, conserve water and recharge your water table.



OPTIONS FOR RAINWATER HARVESTING AND REUSE

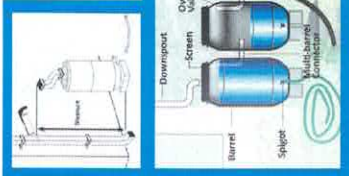
Rainwater harvesting is a great way to save money, prevent pollution and reduce potable water use. To harvest your rainwater, simply redirect the runoff from roofs and downspouts to rain barrels. Rain gardens are another option; these reduce runoff as well as encourage infiltration.

Downspout Disconnection/Redirection

Disconnecting downspouts from pipes running to the gutter prevents runoff from transporting pollutants to the storm drain. Once disconnected, downspouts can be redirected to rain gardens or other regulated areas of the property connected to a rain barrel.

Rain Barrels

Rain barrels capture rainwater flow from roofs for reuse in landscape irrigation. Capacity of rain barrels needed for your home will depend on the amount of roof area and rainfall received. When purchasing your rain barrel, make sure it includes a screen, a spigot to siphon water for use, an overflow tube to allow for excess water to run out and a connector if you wish to connect multiple barrels to add capacity of water storage.



For information on how to disconnect a downspout or to install and maintain a rain barrel or rain garden of your home please see the Los Angeles Rainwater Harvesting Program, A Homeowner's "How-To" Guide, November 2005 at www.larainwaterharvesting.org



Rain Gardens

Rain gardens allow runoff to be directed from your roof downspout into a landscaped area. Vegetated rocks in the garden will slow the flow of water to allow for infiltration into the soil. Plants and soil particles will absorb pollutants in the runoff. By utilizing native plant species, rain gardens can be maintained all year with minimal additional irrigation. These plants are adapted to the semi-arid climate of Southern California, require less water and can reduce your water bill.

Before modifying your yard to install a rain garden, please consult your local building and/or planning departments to ensure your garden plan follows pertinent building codes and ordinances. Building codes and ordinances, some home owner associations also have guidelines for yard modifications. If your property is in an ill-legal area or includes engineered slopes, please seek professional advice before proceeding with changes.



OTHER WATER CONSERVATION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION TECHNIQUES

Native Vegetation and Maintenance

"California Friendly" plants or native vegetation can significantly reduce water use. These plants often require far less fertilizers and pesticides, which are two significant pollutants found in Orange County waterways. Replacing water-thirsty plants and grass types with water-efficient natives is a great way to save water and reduce the need for potentially harmful pesticides and fertilizers.

Please see the California Friendly Garden Guide produced by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and associated Southern California Water Agencies for a catalog of California Friendly plants and other garden resources at www.socalwater.com/CaliforniaFriendly

Weed Free Yards

Weeds are water thieves. They often reproduce quickly and rob your yard of both water and nutrients. Weed your yard by hand if possible. If you use herbicides to control the weeds, use only the amount recommended on the label and never use it if rain is forecast within the next 48 hours.



Soil Amendments

Soil amendments such as green waste (e.g. grass clippings, compost, etc.) can be a great source of nutrients and can help keep the soil near the roots of plants moist. However, they can cause acid burn if they get into our waterways, which reduces the amount of oxygen in the water and impacts most aquatic organisms. It is important to apply soil amendments more than 48 hours prior to predicted rainfall.

IRRIGATE EFFICIENTLY

Smart Irrigation Controllers

Smart Irrigation Controllers have many advantages as well as features that will set them apart from other controllers. In response to environmental changes, it is learning, so you can get the most out of your smart irrigation controller. It will automatically adjust the amount of water you receive based on the weather and soil conditions.

Check with your local water agency for available options in irrigation controllers and smart timers.

After your sprinkler or your lawn is not the only one that can save water. prevent water pollution from your yard, keep your lawn healthy and save money.

Set a timer for your sprinklers - Leave a timer on your lawn to set your sprinklers to run during the day. They can be set to run during the day, so you can avoid watering your lawn during the day. You can also set them to run during the night.

Water at Sunrise - Watering early in the morning will reduce evaporation loss due to evaporation. Additionally, winds tend to blow down in the early morning so the water will get to the lawn as intended.

Water by hand - Instead of using automatic controllers, watering your yard by hand, using a watering can, will allow you to get the proper amount of water and you will prevent any water runoff, which wastes water and creates pollution in our waterways.

Fix leaks - Just as you would fix a leak in your car, you should fix a leak in your lawn. A leak in your lawn can waste a lot of water. It is important to fix a leak in your lawn as soon as you notice it. It is also important to fix a leak in your lawn as soon as you notice it.

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Do your part to prevent water pollution in our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.

Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common household activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful.

Litter, oil, chemicals and other substances that are left on your yard or driveway can be blown or washed into storm drains that flow to the ocean. Over-watering your lawn and washing your car can also flush materials into the storm

drains. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated.

You would never pour soap, fertilizers or oil into the ocean, so don't let them enter streets, gutters or storm drains. Follow the easy tips in this brochure to help prevent water pollution.

**REMEMBER THE
WATER IN YOUR
STORM DRAIN
IS NOT TREATED
BEFORE
IT ENTERS OUR
WATERWAYS**

For more information,
please call the
Orange County Stormwater Program
at **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455)

or visit

www.ocwatersheds.com

To report a spill,
call the

**Orange County 24-Hour
Water Pollution Problem
Reporting Hotline**
1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455).

For emergencies, dial 911.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while performing everyday household activities. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.

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Household Tips



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door

P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N

Pollution Prevention

Household Activities

- **Do not rinse spills with water!** Sweep outdoor spills and dispose of in the trash. For wet spills like oil, apply cat litter or another absorbent material, then sweep and bring to a household hazardous waste collection center (HHWCC).
- Securely cover trash cans.
- Take household hazardous waste to a household hazardous waste collection center.
- Store household hazardous waste in closed, labeled containers inside or under a cover.
- Do not hose down your driveway, sidewalk or patio. Sweep up debris and dispose of in trash.
- Always pick up after your pet. Flush waste down the toilet or dispose of in the trash.
- Bathe pets indoors or have them professionally groomed.

Household Hazardous Wastes include:

- ▲ Batteries
- ▲ Paint thinners, paint strippers and removers
- ▲ Adhesives
- ▲ Drain openers
- ▲ Oven cleaners
- ▲ Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- ▲ Herbicides and pesticides
- ▲ Fungicides/wood preservatives
- ▲ Automotive fluids and products
- ▲ Grease and rust solvents
- ▲ Thermometers and other products containing mercury
- ▲ Fluorescent lamps
- ▲ Cathode ray tubes, e.g. TVs, computer monitors
- ▲ Pool and spa chemicals

Gardening Activities

- Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizers, (measure, do not estimate amounts) and do not use if rain is predicted within 48 hours.
- Water your lawn and garden by hand to control the amount of water you use. Set irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. If water flows off your yard and onto your driveway or sidewalk, your system is over-watering.
- Mulch clippings or leave them on the lawn. If necessary, dispose in a green waste container.
- Cultivate your garden often to control weeds.

Washing and Maintaining Your Car

- Take your car to a commercial car wash whenever possible.
- Choose soaps, cleaners, or detergents labeled “non-toxic,” “phosphate free” or “biodegradable.” Vegetable and citrus-based products are typically safest for the environment, **but even these should not be allowed into the storm drain.**
- Shake floor mats into a trash can or vacuum to clean.

- Do not use acid-based wheel cleaners and “hose off” engine degreasers at home. They can be used at a commercial facility, which can properly process the wastewater.
- **Do not dump washwater onto your driveway, sidewalk, street, gutter or storm drain.** Excess washwater should be disposed of in the sanitary sewers (through a sink, or toilet) or onto an absorbent surface like your lawn.
- Use a nozzle to turn off water when not actively washing down automobile.
- Monitor vehicles for leaks and place pans under leaks. Keep your car well maintained to stop and prevent leaks.
- Use cat litter or other absorbents and sweep to remove any materials deposited by vehicles. Contain sweepings and dispose of at a HHWCC.
- Perform automobile repair and maintenance under a covered area and use drip pans or plastic sheeting to keep spills and waste material from reaching storm drains.
- **Never pour oil or antifreeze in the street, gutter or storm drains.** Recycle these substances at a service station, HHWCC, or used oil recycling center. For the nearest Used Oil Collection Center call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/UsedOil.

For locations and hours of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine and San Juan Capistrano, call (714)834-6752 or visit www.oclandfills.com.

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Proper Disposal of Household Hazardous Waste



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door



ORANGE COUNTY

Do your part to prevent water pollution in our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.

Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and ocean are important to Orange County. However, not properly disposing of household hazardous waste can lead to water pollution. Batteries, electronics, paint, oil, gardening chemicals, cleaners and other hazardous materials cannot be thrown in the trash. They also must never be poured or thrown into yards, sidewalks, driveways, gutters or streets. Rain or other water could wash the materials into the storm

NEVER DISPOSE OF HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE IN THE TRASH, STREET, GUTTER, STORM DRAIN OR SEWER.

drain and eventually into our waterways and the ocean. In addition, hazardous waste must not be poured in the sanitary sewers (sinks and toilets).

For more information, please call the **Orange County Stormwater Program** at **1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)** or visit www.ocwatersheds.com

To Report Illegal Dumping of Household Hazardous Waste call 1-800-69-TOXIC

To report a spill, call the

Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline
1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455).

For emergencies, dial 911.



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Pollution Prevention

Leftover household products that contain corrosive, toxic, ignitable, or reactive ingredients are

**WHEN POSSIBLE,
USE
NON-HAZARDOUS
OR
LESS-HAZARDOUS
PRODUCTS.**

Centers are open Tuesday-Saturday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Centers are closed on rainy days and major holidays. For more information, call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com.

Common household hazardous wastes

- Batteries
- Paint and paint products
- Adhesives
- Drain openers
- Household cleaning products
- Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- Pesticides
- Fungicides/wood preservatives
- Automotive products (antifreeze, motor oil, fluids)
- Grease and rust solvents
- Fluorescent lamps
- Mercury (thermometers & thermostats)
- All forms of electronic waste including computers and microwaves
- Pool & spa chemicals
- Cleaners
- Medications
- Propane (camping & BBQ)
- Mercury-containing lamps

- Television & monitors (CRTs, flatscreens)

Tips for household hazardous waste

- Never dispose of HHW in the trash, street, gutter, storm drain or sewer.
- Keep these materials in closed, labeled containers and store materials indoors or under a cover.
- When possible, use non-hazardous products.
- Reuse products whenever possible or share with family and friends.
- Purchase only as much of a product as you'll need. Empty containers may be disposed of in the trash.
- HHW can be harmful to humans, pets and the environment. Report emergencies to 911.



considered to be "household hazardous waste" or "HHW." HHW can be found throughout your home, including the bathroom, kitchen, laundry room and garage.

Disposal of HHW down the drain, on the ground, into storm drains, or in the trash is illegal and unsafe.

Proper disposal of HHW is actually easy. Simply drop them off at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC) for free disposal and recycling. Many materials including anti-freeze, latex-based paint, motor oil and batteries can be recycled. Some centers have a "Stop & Swap" program that lets you take partially used home, garden, and automobile products free of charge. There are four HHWCCs in Orange County:

- Anaheim:.....1071 N. Blue Gum St
- Huntington Beach:.....17121 Nichols St
- Irvine:.....6411 Oak Canyon
- San Juan Capistrano:....32250 La Pata Ave



Did you know that just one quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water?

A clean ocean and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and beaches are important to Orange County. However, not properly disposing of used oil can lead to water pollution. If you pour or drain oil onto driveways, sidewalks or streets, it can be washed into the storm drain. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering the ocean. Help prevent water pollution by taking your used oil to a used oil collection center.

Included in this brochure is a list of locations that will accept up to five gallons of used motor oil at no cost. Many also accept used oil filters. Please contact the facility before delivering your used oil. This listing of companies is for your reference and does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement of the company.

Please note that used oil filters may not be disposed of with regular household trash. They must be taken to a household hazardous waste collection or recycling center in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine or San Juan Capistrano. For information about these centers, visit www.oilandfills.com.

Please do not mix your oil with other substances!

For more information, please call the Orange County Stormwater Program at 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455) or visit www.watersheds.com.

For information about the proper disposal of household hazardous waste, call the Household Waste Hotline at (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com.



For additional information about the nearest oil recycling center, call the Used Oil Program at 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.cleanup.org.

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution: Recycle at Your Local Used Oil Collection Center



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door

**P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N**



Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and oceans are important to Orange County. However, many common activities such as pest control can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Pesticide treatments must be planned and applied properly to ensure that pesticides do not enter the street, gutter or storm drain. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never dump pesticides into the ocean, so don't let it enter the storm drains. Pesticides can cause significant damage to our environment if used improperly. If you are thinking of using a pesticide to control a pest, there are some important things to consider.

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution: Responsible Pest Control

For more information,
please call

University of California Cooperative
Extension Master Gardeners at
(714) 708-1646

or visit these Web sites:

www.uccecmg.org
www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

For instructions on collecting a specimen
sample visit the Orange County
Agriculture Commissioner's website at:
http://www.ocagcomm.com/ser_lab.asp

To report a spill, call the

**Orange County 24-Hour
Water Pollution Problem
Reporting Hotline**

at 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455).

For emergencies, dial 911.

Information From:

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Extension staff writer. Photos courtesy of
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The Ocean Begins
at Your Front Door



Tips for Pest Control

Key Steps to Follow:

Step 1: Correctly identify the pest (insect, weed, rodent, or disease) and verify that it is actually causing the problem.



Three life stages of the common lady beetle, a beneficial insect.

This is important because beneficial insects are often mistaken for pests and sprayed with pesticides needlessly.

Consult with a Certified Nursery Professional at a local nursery or garden center or send a sample of the pest to the Orange County Agricultural Commissioner's Office.

Determine if the pest is still present – even though you see damage, the pest may have left.

Step 2: Determine how many pests are present and causing damage.

Small pest populations may be controlled more safely using non-pesticide techniques. These include removing food sources, washing off leaves with a strong stream of water, blocking entry into the home using caulking and replacing problem plants with ones less susceptible to pests.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) usually combines several least toxic pest control methods for long-term prevention and management of pest problems without harming you, your family, or the environment.



Step 3: If a pesticide must be used, choose the least toxic chemical.

Obtain information on the least toxic pesticides that are effective at controlling the target pest from the UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program's Web site at www.ipm.ucdavis.edu.

Seek out the assistance of a Certified Nursery Professional at a local nursery or garden center when selecting a pesticide. Purchase the smallest amount of pesticide available.

Apply the pesticide to the pest during its most vulnerable life stage. This information can be found on the pesticide label.

Step 4: Wear appropriate protective clothing.

Follow pesticide labels regarding specific types of protective equipment you should wear. Protective clothing should always be washed separately from other clothing.

Step 5: Continuously monitor external conditions when applying pesticides such as weather, irrigation, and the presence of children and animals.

Never apply pesticides when rain is predicted within the next 48 hours. Also, do not water after applying pesticides unless the directions say it is necessary.

Apply pesticides when the air is still; breezy conditions may cause the spray or dust to drift away from your targeted area.

In case of an emergency call 911 and/or the regional poison control number at (714) 634-5988 or (800) 544-4404 (CA only).

For general questions you may also visit www.calpoison.org.

Step 6: In the event of accidental spills, sweep up or use an absorbent agent to remove any excess pesticides. Avoid the use of water.

Be prepared. Have a broom, dust pan, or dry absorbent material, such as cat litter, newspapers or paper towels, ready to assist in cleaning up spills.

Contain and clean up the spill right away. Place contaminated materials in a doubled plastic bag. All materials used to clean up the spill should be properly disposed of according to your local Household Hazardous Waste Disposal site.

Step 7: Properly store and dispose of unused pesticides.

Purchase Ready-To-Use (RTU) products to avoid storing large quantities of pesticides.

Store unused chemicals in a locked cabinet.

Unused pesticide chemicals may be disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.

Empty pesticide containers should be triple rinsed prior to disposing of them in the trash.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center
(714) 834-6752
www.oilandfills.com



Sewage Spill Regulatory Requirements

Allowing sewage to discharge to a gutter or storm drain may subject you to penalties and/or out-of-pocket costs to reimburse cities or public agencies for clean-up efforts.

Here are the pertinent codes, fines, and agency contact information that apply.

Orange County Stormwater Program 24 Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)

- County and city water quality ordinances prohibit discharges containing pollutants.

Orange County Health Care Agency Environmental Health (714) 433-8419

California Health and Safety Code, Sections 5410-5416

- No person shall discharge raw or treated sewage or other waste in a manner that results in contamination, pollution or nuisance.
- Any person who causes or permits a sewage discharge to any state waters:
 - must immediately notify the local health agency of the discharge.
 - shall reimburse the local health agency for services that protect the public's health and safety (water-contact receiving waters).
 - who fails to provide the required notice to the local health agency is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine (between \$500-\$1,000) and/or imprisonment for less than one year.

Regional Water Quality Control Board Santa Ana Region San Diego Region (951) 782-4130 (858) 467-2952

- Requires the prevention, mitigation, response to and reporting of sewage spills.

California Office of Emergency Services (800) 852-7550

California Water Code, Article 4, Chapter 4, Sections 13568-13271 California Code of Regulations, Title 23, Division 3, Chapter 9.2, Article 2, Sections 2390-2260

- Any person who causes or permits sewage in excess of 1,000 gallons to be discharged to state waters shall immediately notify the Office of Emergency Services.
- Any person who fails to provide the notice required by this section is guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished by a fine (less than \$20,000) and/or imprisonment for not more than one year.

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What is a Sewage Spill?

Sewage spills occur when the wastewater being transported via underground pipes overflows through a manhole, cleanout or broken pipe. Sewage spills can cause health hazards, damage to homes and businesses, and threaten the environment, local waterways and beaches.

Common Causes of Sewage Spills

Grease builds up inside and eventually blocks sewer pipes. Grease gets into the sewer from food establishments, household drains, as well as from poorly maintained commercial grease traps and interceptors.

Structure problems caused by tree roots in the lines, broken/cracked pipes, missing or broken cleanout caps or undersized sewers can cause blockages.

Infiltration and inflow (I/I) impacts pipe capacity and is caused when groundwater or rainwater enters the sewer system through pipe defects and illegal connections.

You Are Responsible for a Sewage Spill Caused by a Blockage or Break in Your Sewer Lines!

Time is of the essence in dealing with sewage spills. You are required to **immediately**:

Control and minimize the spill. Keep spills contained on private property and out of gutters, storm drains and public waterways by shutting off or not using the water.

Use sandbags, dirt and/or plastic sheeting to prevent sewage from entering the storm drain system.

Clear the sewer blockage. Always wear gloves and wash your hands. It is recommended that a plumbing professional be called for clearing blockages and making necessary repairs.

Always notify your city sewer/public works department or public sewer district of sewage spills. If the spill enters the storm drains also notify the Health Care Agency. In addition, if it exceeds 1,000 gallons notify the Office of Emergency Services. Refer to the numbers listed in this brochure.



Overflowing cleanout pipe located on private property

You Could Be Liable

Allowing sewage from your home, business or property to discharge to a gutter or storm drain may subject you to penalties and/or out-of-pocket costs to reimburse cities or public agencies for clean-up and enforcement efforts. See Regulatory Codes & Fines section for pertinent codes and fines that apply.

What to Look For

Sewage spills can be a very noticeable gushing of water from a manhole or a slow water leak that may take time to be noticed. Don't dismiss unaccounted-for wet areas.

Look for:

- Drain backups inside the building.
- Wet ground and water leaking around manhole lids onto your street.
- Leaking water from cleanouts or outside drains.
- Unusual odorous wet areas: sidewalks, external walls or ground/landscape around a building.

Caution

Keep people and pets away from the affected area. Untreated sewage has high levels of disease-causing viruses and bacteria. Call your local health care agency listed on the back for more information.

**If You See a Sewage Spill Occurring,
Notify Your City Sewer/Public Works
Department or Public Sewer District
IMMEDIATELY!**

Sewage Spill Reference Guide

Your Responsibilities as a Private Property Owner

**Residences
Businesses
Homeowner/Condominium Associations
Federal and State Complexes
Military Facilities**



Orange County
Sanitation District



Health Care Agency
Environmental Health



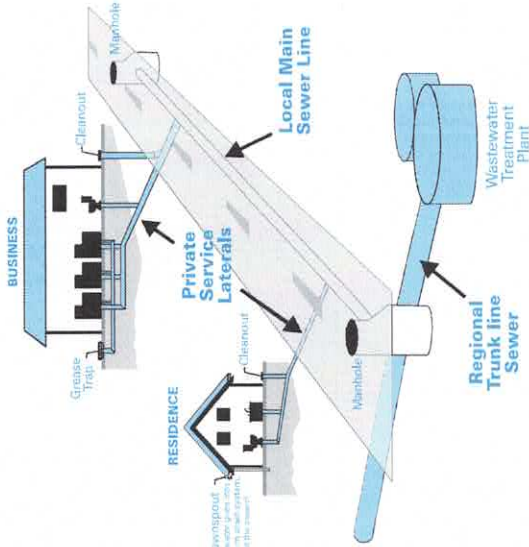
www.ocwatersheds.com

This brochure was designed courtesy of the Orange County Sanitation District (OCSO).
For additional information, call (714) 962-2411, or visit their website at www.ocsd.com.

How a Sewer System Works

A property owner's sewer pipes are called service laterals and are connected to larger local main and regional trunk lines. Service laterals run from the connection at the home to the connection with the public sewer (including the area under the street). These laterals are the responsibility of the property owner and must be maintained by the property owner. Many city agencies have adopted ordinances requiring maintenance of service laterals. Check with your city sewer/local public works department for more information.

Operation and maintenance of **local and regional sewer lines** are the responsibility of the city sewer/public works departments and public sewer districts.



How You Can Prevent Sewage Spills

- 1 Never put grease down garbage disposals, drains or toilets.
- 2 Perform periodic cleaning to eliminate grease, debris and roots in your service laterals.
- 3 Repair any structural problems in your sewer system and eliminate any rainwater infiltration/inflow leaks into your service laterals.



Sewage spills can cause damage to the environment. Help prevent them!

Preventing Grease Blockages

The drain is not a dump! Recycle or dispose of grease properly and never pour grease down the drain. Homeowners should mix fats, oils and grease with absorbent waste materials such as paper, coffee grounds, or kitty litter and place it in the trash. Wipe food scraps from plates and pans and dump them in the trash.

Restaurants and commercial food service establishments should always use "Kitchen Best Management Practices." These include:

- Collecting all cooking grease and liquid oil from pots, pans and fryers in covered grease containers for recycling.
- Scraping or dry-wiping excess food and grease from dishes, pots, pans and fryers into the trash.
- Installing drain screens on all kitchen drains.
- Having spill kits readily available for cleaning up spills.
- Properly maintaining grease traps or interceptors by having them serviced regularly. Check your local city codes.

Orange County Agency Responsibilities

- **City Sewer/Public Works Departments**—Responsible for protecting city property and streets, the local storm drain system, sewage collection system and other public areas.
- **Public Sewer/Sanitation District**—Responsible for collecting, treating and disposing of wastewater.
- **County of Orange Health Care Agency**—Responsible for protecting public health by closing ocean/bay waters and may close food-service businesses if a spill poses a threat to public health.
- **Regional Water Quality Control Boards**—Responsible for protecting State waters.
- **Orange County Stormwater Program**—Responsible for preventing harmful pollutants from being discharged or washed by stormwater runoff into the municipal storm drain system, creeks, bays and the ocean.

You Could Be Liable for Not Protecting the Environment

Local and state agencies have legal jurisdiction and enforcement authority to ensure that sewage spills are remedied.

They may respond and assist with containment, relieving pipe blockages, and/or clean-up of the sewage spill, especially if the spill is flowing into storm drains or onto public property.

A property owner may be charged for costs incurred by these agencies responding to spills from private properties.



Report Sewage Spills!


City Sewer/Public Works Departments	
Aliso Viejo	(949) 425-2500
Anaheim	(714) 765-6860
Brea	(714) 900-7691
Buena Park	(714) 562-8655
Costa Mesa	(949) 645-6400
Cypress	(714) 229-6760
Dana Point	(949) 248-3562
Fountain Valley	(714) 593-4600
Fullerton	(714) 743-6897
Garden Grove	(714) 741-5375
Huntington Beach	(714) 536-5921
Irvine	(949) 453-3000
Laguna Beach	(949) 497-0765
Laguna Hills	(949) 707-8550
Laguna Niguel	(949) 362-4337
Laguna Woods	(949) 639-0500
La Habra	(562) 965-9792
Lake Forest	(949) 461-3480
La Palma	(714) 690-3310
Los Alamitos	(562) 431-3538
Mission Viejo	(949) 831-2500
Newport Beach	(949) 644-3011
Orange	(714) 532-6480
Orange County	(714) 567-6363
Pasadena	(714) 953-6245
Rancho Santa Margarita	(949) 635-1000
San Clemente	(949) 366-1553
San Juan Capistrano	(949) 445-6363
Santa Ana	(714) 647-3360
Seal Beach	(562) 431-2527
Stanton	(714) 378-9222
Tustin	(714) 962-2411
Villa Park	(714) 998-1500
Westminster	(714) 893-3553
Yorba Linda	(714) 961-7170

Public Sewer/Water Districts	
Costa Mesa Sanitary District	(714) 936-4433/ (949) 645-9400
El Toro Water District	(949) 837-0660
Emerald Bay Service District	(949) 494-8571
Garden Grove Sanitary District	(714) 741-5375
Irvine Ranch Water District	(949) 453-5300
Los Alamitos/Rossmore Sewer District	(562) 431-2223
Midway City Sanitary District (Westminster)	(714) 893-3553
Moulton Niguel Water District	(949) 831-2500
Orange County Sanitation District	(714) 962-2411
Santa Margarita Water District	(949) 650-6420
South Coast Water District	(949) 499-4955
South Orange County Wastewater Authority	(949) 234-5000
Sunset Beach Sanitary District	(562) 431-2223
TraBucco Canyon Sanitary District	(949) 658-0277
Yorba Linda Water District	(714) 771-3018

Other Agencies
 Orange County Health Care Agency (714) 433-6419
 Office of Emergency Services (800) 852-7550

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Tips for Home Improvement Projects



Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Home improvement projects and work sites must be maintained to ensure that building materials do not enter the street, gutter or storm drain. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never dump building materials into the ocean, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information, please call the

Orange County Stormwater Program
at 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)

or visit

www.ocwatersheds.com

To report a spill, call the

Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline

at 1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455).

For emergencies, dial 911.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while performing home improvement projects. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.

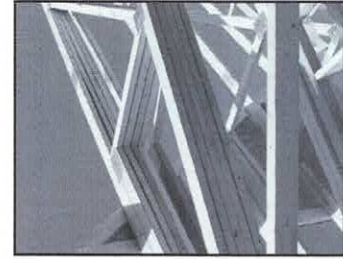


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Tips for Home Improvement Projects

Home improvement projects can cause significant damage to the environment. Whether you hire a contractor or work on the house yourself, it is important to follow these simple tips while renovating, remodeling or improving your home:

General Construction



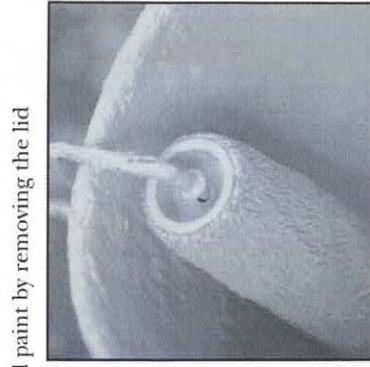
- Schedule projects for dry weather.
- Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drain.
- Store materials under cover with temporary roofs or plastic sheets to eliminate or reduce the possibility that rainfall, runoff or wind will carry materials from the project site to the street, storm drain or adjacent properties.

Building Materials

- Never hose materials into a street, gutter or storm drain.
- Exposed piles of construction material should not be stored on the street or sidewalk.
- Minimize waste by ordering only the amount of materials needed to complete the job.
- Do not mix more fresh concrete than is needed for each project.
- Wash concrete mixers and equipment in a designated washout area where the water can flow into a containment area or onto dirt.
- Dispose of small amounts of dry excess materials in the trash. Powdery waste, such as dry concrete, must be properly contained within a box or bag prior to disposal. Call your local trash hauler for weight and size limits.

Paint

- Measure the room or object to be painted, then buy only the amount needed.
- Place the lid on firmly and store the paint can upside-down in a dry location away from the elements.
- Tools such as brushes, buckets and rags should never be washed where excess water can drain into the street, gutter or storm drain. All tools should be rinsed in a sink connected to the sanitary sewer.
- When disposing of paint, never put wet paint in the trash.



- Dispose of water-based paint by removing the lid and letting it dry in the can. Large amounts must be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC).
- Oil-based paint is a household hazardous waste. All leftover paint should be taken to a HHWCC.

- For HHWCC locations and hours, call (714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com.

Erosion Control

- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- When temporarily removing soil, pile it in a contained, covered area where it cannot spill into the street, or obtain the required temporary encroachment or street closure permit and follow the conditions instructed by the permit.

- When permanently removing large quantities of soil, a disposal location must be found prior to excavation. Numerous businesses are available to handle disposal needs. For disposal options, visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/SWIS.

- Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grasses. They will shield and bind the soil.

Recycle

- Use a construction and demolition recycling company to recycle lumber, paper, cardboard, metals, masonry (bricks, concrete, etc.), carpet, plastic, pipes (plastic, metal and clay), drywall, rocks, dirt and green waste.



- For a listing of construction and demolition recycling locations in your area, visit www.ciwmb.ca.gov/recycle.

Spills

- Clean up spills immediately by using an absorbent material such as cat litter, then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash.
- Immediately report spills that have entered the street, gutter or storm drain to the County's 24-Hour Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline at (714) 567-6363 or visit www.ocwatersheds.com to fill out an incident reporting form.



Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Pet waste and pet care products can be washed into the storm drains that flow to the ocean. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never put pet waste or pet care products into the ocean, so don't let them enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.

For more information,
please call the

Orange County Stormwater Program
at **1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)**

or visit

www.ocwatersheds.com

To report a spill,
call the

**Orange County 24-Hour
Water Pollution Problem**

Reporting Hotline

1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455).

For emergencies, dial 911.

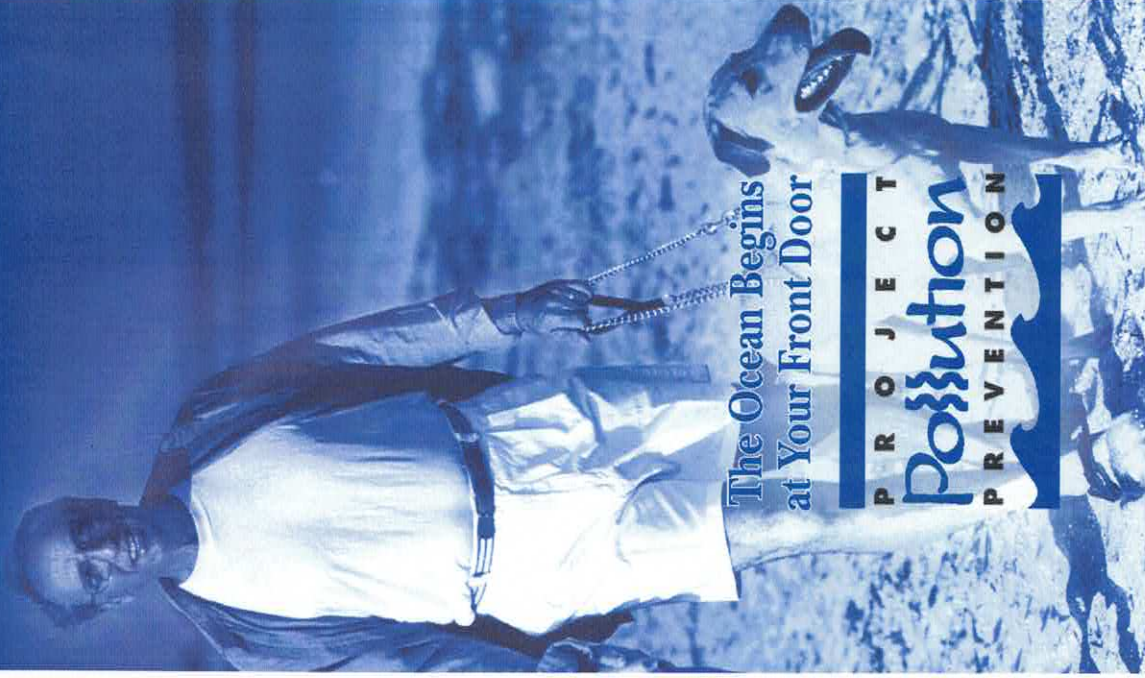
The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while caring for your pet. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



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Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Tips for Pet Care



**The Ocean Begins
at Your Front Door**

**P R O J E C T
Pollution
P R E V E N T I O N**

Tips for Pet Care

Never let any pet care products or wastewater run off your yard and into the street, gutter or storm drain.

Washing Your Pets

Even biodegradable soaps and shampoos can be harmful to marine life and the environment.

■ If possible, bathe your pets indoors using less-toxic shampoos or have your pet professionally groomed. Follow instructions on the products and clean up spills.

■ If you bathe your pet outside, wash it on your lawn or another absorbent/permeable surface to keep the wastewater from running into the street, gutter or storm drain.



Flea Control

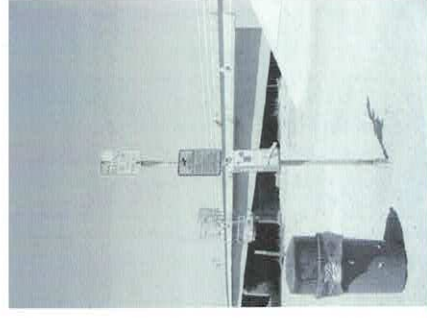
■ Consider using oral or topical flea control products.

■ If you use flea control products such as shampoos, sprays or collars, make sure to dispose of any unused products at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center. For location information, call (714) 834-6752.



Why You Should Pick Up After Your Pet

It's the law! Every city has an ordinance requiring you to pick up after your pet. Besides being a nuisance, pet



waste can lead to water pollution, even if you live inland. During rainfall, pet waste left outdoors can wash into storm drains. This waste flows directly into our waterways and the ocean where it can harm human health, marine life and the environment.

As it decomposes, pet waste demands a high level of oxygen from water.

This decomposition can contribute to killing marine life by reducing the amount of dissolved oxygen available to them.

Have fun with your pets, but please be a responsible pet owner by taking care of them and the environment.

■ Take a bag with you on walks to pick up after your pet.

■ Dispose of the waste in the trash or in a toilet.



Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and oceans are important to Orange County. However, many common activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Swimming pools and spas are common in Orange County, but they must be maintained properly to guarantee that chemicals aren't allowed to enter the street, where they can flow into the storm drains and then into the waterways. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never dump pool chemicals into the ocean, so don't let it enter the storm drains. Follow these easy tips to help prevent water pollution.



For more information, please call the **Orange County Stormwater Program** at **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455) or visit www.ocwatersheds.com

To report a spill, call the **Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Reporting Hotline** **1-877-89-SPILL** (1-877-897-7455).

For emergencies, dial 911.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while maintaining your pool. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



Tips for Pool Maintenance

The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door

PROJECT
Pollution
PREVENTION

