

What is Storm Water Pollution?

Storm water is the water that flows through gutters and into storm drains when it rains. During dry weather, water also flows into gutters and storm drains as a result of payment washing, runoff from excess lawn irrigation, residential car washing, and other activities. Unlike the wastewater that flows through the sanitary sewer system to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District treatment facility, water that flows through the storm drain system is not treated. It is released directly to local waterways.

Rain water and dry-weather runoff pick up many kinds of pollutants as the water flows across pavement and landscaped areas and carries them into the storm water system and then to waterways. Trash, yard clipping debris, and other solid waste materials left in streets and gutters are also carried into the storm drain system. Because of these factors, urban runoff (also called nonpoint source pollution) remains the nation's largest source of water quality problems, according to the U.S. E.P.A.

To report illegal dumping or illicit connection to the City's storm water system, please call non-emergency dispatch at
(916) 372-3375

For more information regarding the state's policies on Storm Water Pollution please visit their website at
www.calepa.ca.gov and visit the Storm Water page.

For specific questions you can visit our website at
www.cityofwestsacramento.org/stormwater or contact our Environmental Services Division at
(916) 617-4590

Landscapers or Yard Maintenance

Storm Water Pollution Prevention in the City of West Sacramento



How to avoid Storm Water Pollution from... Fertilizers



When using fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides, remember that these chemicals have the potential to be washed into the storm drain so use them sparingly.

- Fertilize according to directions on fertilizer bags. Do not over-water after fertilizing.
- Use natural non-toxic alternatives whenever possible
- If you must use traditional products, spot apply only
- Avoid application on hard surfaces, such as curbs and driveways.
- Check the weather and don't spray if rain or high wind is forecasted.
- Stay away from creeks, ponds, and ditches as a rule of thumb.
- These chemicals must be disposed of as hazardous waste at the Yolo County Central Landfill.
- Plant native vegetation to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers, and pesticide applied to the landscape.

How to avoid Storm Water Pollution from... Irrigation



By avoiding runoff from irrigation, the storm drain is being protected from fertilizers, yard waste, soil, and other urban pollutants.

- Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are often carried into the storm drain system by sprinkler runoff
 - Don't water the pavement. Redirect irrigation water so it is only watering the landscape
 - Fix leaks. Irrigation systems that leak, overspray, or gush water are wasting water and money.
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- Use drip and bubbler irrigation that apply water to the plant root zones at the rate it can soak in.
 - Low flow sprinkler heads can also minimize overspray and evaporation and reduce runoff.
 - Prevent erosion of slopes by planting fast-growing, dense ground covering plants. These will shield and bind the soil.

How to avoid Storm Water Pollution from... Yard Waste



Be aware of where you are raking or blowing yard debris while cleaning. This can end up in the sewer and can cause serious back-ups as well as contaminate waterways.

- Dispose of grass clippings, leaves, branches, sticks, or other yard waste by composting it or putting it in a yard waste bin.
- Never put yard waste in the storm drain system.
- Leaves are yard waste too. They must be collected and hauled away or be put in the yard waste bin. Keep them out of the gutter and catch basins.
- Protect bare soil. Use mulch or other erosion control measures to prevent soil from washing away.
- Protect stockpiles from rain and runoff. Check the weather, keep materials out of the gutter, cover and secure with tarps or plastic, and only have delivered what will be used right away.
- Protect chemicals from rain and wind. Store under a roof or under a cover. Secure drum and container lids
- Dispose of pet waste in the garbage