Do You Know Where The Water In Your Storm Drain Goes?

Orange County Urban Storm Water Pollution Prevention Program

Even if you live miles from the Pacific Ocean you may be polluting it without knowing it.

How Does Orange County's Storm Drain System Work?

Unlike the sewer system, which carries water from your indoor drains to wastewater treatment plants, the storm drain system releases untreated water into channels, rivers and ultimately the ocean.

To insure the safety and enjoyment of our environment, everyone's help is needed to keep the storm drain system free from harmful pollutants...

Did you know that one pint of motor oil can produce an oil slick of approximately one acre on the surface of water?

Common Storm Drain Pollutants

* Detergents, Cleaners and Solvents
* Oil and Latex Paint
* Swimming Pool Chemicals
* Outdoor Trash and Litter

Lawn and Garden

* Pet and Animal Waste
* Pesticides, Insecticides, and Herbicides
* Clippings, Leaves and Soil
* Fertilizer

Automobile

* Oil and Grease
* Radiator Fluids and Antifreeze
* Cleaning Chemicals
* Brake pad dust

To The Ocean...
Things You Can Do To Protect The Water In Your Storm Drain System

**HOUSEHOLD**
Some household products, such as cleaners, insect spray and weed killers, can cause pollution if allowed to drain into a storm drain. Buy household products labeled “non-toxic” whenever possible. Clean up spills with an absorbent material such as kitty litter and check with your disposal carrier or a household hazardous waste collection center * for disposal recommendations.

**PAINT AND SOLVENTS**
Clean water-based paints from rollers, pans and brushes in sinks that go into the sewer system. Use paint thinner to remove oil-based paint. Use coveralls to protect exposed skin from paint. Keep the paint for touch-ups or give it to a friend.

**AUTOMOTIVE**
Keep your autos in good repair and watch for possible leaks. Take dead or used fluids to your household hazardous waste collection center *. Clean up leaks and spills with an absorbent material such as kitty litter and check with your disposal carrier or a household hazardous waste collection center * for disposal recommendations.

**SWIMMING POOL AND SPA**
Water containing chlorine is harmful to aquatic life. Whenever possible, drain water into the sewer system. There are established guidelines on the amount of residual chlorine, acceptable pH range, coloration, filter media and acid cleaning wastes when draining into the storm drain system, and some areas may require a permit. Check with your city or call the county at 714-567-6363 for a copy of the guidelines.

**LAWN AND GARDEN**
Use a broom or rake to clean up yard debris and place in trash bins. Lawn clippings and leaves should be placed in recycling containers if available. Better yet, leave your grass clippings on the lawn. Follow directions carefully when using pesticides and fertilizers. Don’t over water or use before a rain. Pesticides and fertilizers may adversely impact our waterways.

**TRASH**
Place trash and litter that cannot be recycled or reused in trash cans. Call your city to find out if your city has a recycling program. Whenever possible, turn trash into useful products and buy recycled products. Remember: Reduce - Reuse - Recycle.

**PET CARE**
Pick-up pet waste as soon as possible and put it in the trash. Pet waste has harmful bacteria that can get into our waterways. Also, follow label directions for disposal on pet care products like flea shampoo, they can be toxic.

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Before you let anything go into the gutter or the storm drain, stop and think!

Storm drain water goes directly into channels and creeks...

...and through wetlands and bays...

It's Up To You
Together, you and your neighbors can make a difference to keep gutters, storm drains and waterways clean. To learn more, contact your city or one of the program participants listed in this brochure.

This brochure has been developed as part of the Orange County Storm Water Management Program. Participants include the County of Orange, local cities, and agencies listed in this brochure. You may contact one of them for additional brochures and information.