



AIR CONDITIONERS

Storm Water Regulations

It is illegal to discharge air conditioning condensate into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) without proper controls (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0305 (e)(1)). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Air Conditioning Condensate

Air conditioning condensate has been identified as a source of pollutants, including the heavy metal copper, and can also transport pollutants already on the ground. Air conditioning condensate can contribute to ocean pollution. These pollutants are hazardous to San Diego residents and toxic to our environment.

Control, Contain, Capture

Polluted runoff can be eliminated when proper methods are used to control, contain, and capture air conditioning condensation.

1. Direct air conditioning condensate to the sanitary sewer through a direct connection or via a bucket, if allowed.
 - ◆ Contact the Development Services Department at (619) 446-5000 to obtain a building permit to direct the condensation to the sanitary sewer system.
2. Direct air conditioning condensation to onsite landscaping or pervious areas to evaporate or be absorbed by the soil without runoff or erosion.
 - ◆ Do not leave standing water on paved surfaces for evaporation.
 - ◆ A bucket may be used to collect condensation to use for watering landscaping.
3. If option 1 or 2 above is not feasible, and the discharge does not contain pollutants exceeding the California Toxics Rule (CTR), then the air conditioning condensate may enter the storm drain system. The condensation must be proven to contain no pollutants that contribute to water quality exceedances with monitoring conducted using the EPA standard protocols.



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Runoff conveyed and discharged by municipal storm water systems has been identified by local, regional, and national research programs as one of the principal causes of water quality problems in urban areas such as the City of San Diego.

This runoff potentially contains a host of pollutants including trash, debris, bacteria, viruses, oil, grease, sediments, nutrients, metals, and toxic chemicals. These contaminants can adversely affect the beneficial uses of receiving creeks, coastal waters, associated wildlife habitat, and public health.

Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and ultimately the ocean. Storm water often contains pollutants, including chemicals, trash, and automobile fluids, all of which pollute our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices (BMP's) as part of your daily clean up and maintenance routine.

Urban runoff pollution is a problem during rainy seasons and also throughout the year due to urban water uses that discharge non-storm water runoff via dry weather flows to the storm water conveyance system.

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