

Preventing Pollution



...around your home.

≈ Store supplies such as paints, solvents and cleaners properly to avoid spilling.

≈ When using water based paints, rinse paint brushes in the sink. Never clean brushes or pour paint in the gutter or storm drain.

≈ Pick up trash and litter around your yard and home.

≈ Dispose of drywall, concrete and mortar from home improvement projects in the trash. Sweep up all project debris.

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...from your vehicle.

≈ Regularly check your vehicle for fluid leaks and keep it serviced.

≈ When changing fluids in your car, drain into a clean container and dispose at a used oil collection site.

≈ Quickly contain fluid spills with rags or kitty litter, and dispose of properly.

≈ If you wash your car, use a trigger nozzle on your hose and wash your car on a landscaped surface – it won't kill your grass.



Remember to "Scoop the Poop"



≈ Carry bags to pick up after your pet and dispose in the trash.

Important Resources and Contacts

To report Storm Water Pollution in San Diego, please call the Think Blue Hotline
(619) 235-1000
City of San Diego
Storm Water Department
(858) 541-4360
City of San Diego
Environmental Services Department
(858) 694-7000

If you are outside of the City of San Diego call: 1-800-CLEANUP or go to www.earth911.org to find your local hazardous waste program.

Under the City of San Diego's Municipal Code §43.0301, Storm Water Management and Discharge Control ordinance, it is illegal to discharge pollutants into the storm water conveyance system.



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THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Think Blue Tips

*Preventing Storm Water Pollution
in San Diego*



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When it rains...



...or when water flows out of yards, it flows directly into storm drains.

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and sewer system are **not** connected.

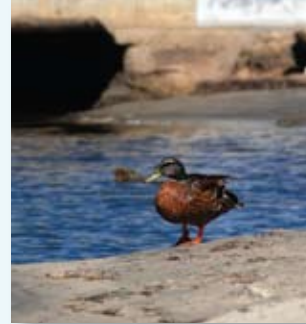
Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and ultimately the ocean. Storm water can contain harmful pollutants, including pesticides, pet waste, trash, and automobile fluids.



You and your family play an important role in pollution prevention. If everyone makes a few simple changes, we can help protect our San Diego lifestyle and environment.

Environmental Regulations

The Federal Clean Water Act prohibits disposal of waste and pollutants into creeks, rivers, bays, lakes and the ocean due to the harmful effects pollutants have on recreational waterways and wildlife. Some of San Diego's most popular beaches have been temporarily closed because of storm water pollution. By preventing pollution from occurring in our neighborhoods and at our businesses, we can protect our environment and our families' health and safety.



"Think Blue San Diego"



for educating residents, visitors and industry on ways to prevent pollution and protect our waterways in San Diego.

Think Blue, the City's pollution prevention education program in the Storm Water Department, is responsible

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...in your yard.

Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drain and take action to protect it from debris. This may require you to sweep the gutter between

your project and the storm drain, ***before*** starting work.

- ~ Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly. Read labels carefully and only apply after it rains, not before
- ~ Use mulch instead of herbicides to prevent weeds from growing and to help absorb water.
- ~ Select drought resistant native plants that conserve water and prevent runoff.
- ~ Adjust sprinklers and reduce water times to prevent over-irrigation runoff.
- ~ Keep your gutters free of leaves and grass clippings. Sweep up instead of hosing down your driveway.

A Change for the better begins with you "Think Blue San Diego".