

PROTECT WATER QUALITY



You and your family play an important role in preventing pollution. As you perform your daily activities at home or on the job, be proactive. It is easier to prevent pollution than to clean it up once it has occurred.

When it rains or when water flows out of yards, it gets collected by the storm drain system. All water that enters the storm drain system flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, and ultimately the ocean – along with the pollutants it carries. Trash, bacteria, sediment, heavy metals, fertilizers, pesticides and other pollutants enter our waterways every day.

Keeping pollutants out of storm drains helps preserve our environment and improve water quality. It can also help you avoid costly fines related to the illegal disposal of trash and other pollutants into the storm drain system (San Diego Municipal Code \$43.0304).



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To report storm water pollution in San Diego, call the Think Blue Hotline:
(619) 235-1000

thinkblue.org

[facebook.com/ThinkBlueSanDiego](https://www.facebook.com/ThinkBlueSanDiego)



The City of San Diego
Storm Water Division
9370 Chesapeake Drive, Suite 100,
San Diego, CA 92123

KEEP OUR OCEAN CLEAN

TIPS FOR POLLUTION PREVENTION



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A CHANGE FOR THE BETTER BEGINS WITH YOU



PREVENT POLLUTION

One of the best ways to prevent the flow of pollution into our local waterways is to prevent water from leaving your property as you perform daily activities. By eliminating basic things, like over-irrigation and cleaning hard surfaces with water, you can prevent urban runoff and avoid discharging pollutants into our local waterways.

AROUND YOUR HOME

Trash, pet waste, yard chemicals and home construction projects can all contribute pollution if not contained and disposed of properly. Reduce bacteria in our waterways by picking up litter from around your yard and neighborhood and carry bags to pick up after your pet. Store household chemicals in a sturdy, covered container. Sweep up trash, sediment, and debris and dispose of construction waste in the trash.

IN YOUR YARD

Yard waste has the potential to carry hazardous landscaping chemicals like pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers into the storm drain system. It also generates a large amount of bacteria if left to decompose in curbs, catch basins, and local waterways. Sweep up yard waste instead of hosing it away and keep curb gutters free of leaves and grass clippings. Replace turf grass with native plants to conserve water and reduce the need for landscape chemicals. Use mulch to prevent weeds, water loss and erosion. Stop irrigation runoff by adjusting sprinklers and reducing watering times.

During the rainy season, redirect your rain gutter downspouts to flow into your landscaping where the water can be absorbed and replenish groundwater. Or, connect your downspout to a rain barrel to store the water for later use.

FROM YOUR CAR

Your car can be a source of automotive pollutants such as motor oil, anti-freeze, transmission fluids, and heavy metals. It is important to check your vehicle regularly for fluid leaks and keep it serviced. Use a funnel to prevent spills and keep rags and absorbents within reach. Use drip pans, drop cloths, or containers to collect fluids when making repairs or collecting leaks. Wash your car on your lawn or direct wash water to a landscaped surface to avoid releasing automotive pollution into our waterways.

Make a pledge to implement the above practices daily. Think Blue appreciates everything you do to help protect our local waterways.