

The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door



Never allow pollutants to enter the

Even if you live miles from the Pacific Ocean, you may be unknowingly polluting it.

Dumping one quart of motor oil into a storm drain can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water.

Did You Know?

- Most people believe that the largest source of water pollution in urban areas comes from specific sources such as factories and sewage treatment plants. In fact, the largest source of water pollution comes from city streets, neighborhoods, construction sites and parking lots. This type of pollution is sometimes called “non-point source” pollution.
- There are two types of non-point source pollution: stormwater and urban runoff pollution.
- Stormwater runoff results from rainfall. When rainstorms cause large volumes of water to rinse the urban landscape, picking up pollutants along the way.
- Urban runoff can happen any time of the year when excessive water use from irrigation, vehicle washing and other sources carries trash, lawn clippings and other urban pollutants into storm drains.

Where Does It Go?

- Anything we use outside homes, vehicles and businesses – like motor oil, paint, pesticides, fertilizers and cleaners – can be blown or washed into storm drains.
- A little water from a garden hose or rain can also send materials into storm drains.
- Storm drains are separate from our sanitary sewer systems; unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks or toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

Sources of Non-Point Source Pollution

- Automotive leaks and spills.
- Improper disposal of used oil and other engine fluids.
- Metals found in vehicle exhaust, weathered paint, rust, metal plating and tires.
- Pesticides and fertilizers from lawns, gardens and farms.
- Improper disposal of cleaners, paint and paint removers.
- Soil erosion and dust debris from landscape and construction activities.
- Litter, lawn clippings, animal waste, and other organic matter.
- Oil stains on parking lots and paved surfaces.



The Effect on the Ocean



Non-point source pollution can have a serious impact on water quality in Orange County. Pollutants from the storm drain system can harm marine life

as well as coastal and wetland habitats. They can also degrade recreation areas such as beaches, harbors and bays.

Stormwater quality management programs have been developed throughout Orange County to educate and encourage the public to protect water quality, monitor runoff in the storm drain system, investigate illegal dumping and maintain storm drains.

Support from Orange County residents and businesses is needed to improve water quality and reduce urban runoff pollution. Proper use and disposal of materials will help stop pollution before it reaches the storm drain and the ocean.



For More Information

Orange County Stormwater Program

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California Environmental Protection Agency

www.calepa.ca.gov

- **Air Resources Board**

www.arb.ca.gov

- **Department of Pesticide Regulation**

www.cdpr.ca.gov

- **Department of Toxic Substances Control**

www.dtsc.ca.gov

- **Integrated Waste Management Board**

www.ciwmb.ca.gov

- **Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment**

www.oehha.ca.gov

- **State Water Resources Control Board**

www.waterboards.ca.gov

Earth 911 - Community-Specific Environmental Information 1-800-cleanup or visit www.1800cleanup.org

Health Care Agency's Ocean and Bay Water Closure and Posting Hotline

(714) 433-6400 or visit www.ocbeachinfo.com

Integrated Waste Management Dept. of Orange County

(714) 834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com for information on household hazardous waste collection centers, recycling centers and solid waste collection

O.C. Agriculture Commissioner

(714) 447-7100 or visit www.ocagcomm.com

Stormwater Best Management Practice Handbook

Visit www.cabmphandbooks.com

UC Master Gardener Hotline

(714) 708-1646 or visit www.uccemg.com

The Orange County Stormwater Program has created and moderates an electronic mailing list to facilitate communications, take questions and exchange ideas among its users about issues and topics related to stormwater and urban runoff and the implementation of program elements.

To join the list, please send an email to ocstormwaterinfo-join@list.ocwatersheds.com

Aliso Viejo	(949)	425-2535
Anaheim Public Works Operations	(714)	765-6860
Brea Engineering	(714)	990-7666
Buena Park Public Works	(714)	562-3655
Costa Mesa Public Services	(714)	754-5323
Cypress Public Works	(714)	229-6740
Dana Point Public Works	(949)	248-3584
Fountain Valley Public Works	(714)	593-4441
Fullerton Engineering Dept.	(714)	738-6853
Garden Grove Public Works	(714)	741-5956
Huntington Beach Public Works	(714)	536-5431
Irvine Public Works	(949)	724-6315
La Habra Public Services	(562)	905-9792
La Palma Public Works	(714)	690-3310
Laguna Beach Water Quality	(949)	497-0378
Laguna Hills Public Services	(949)	707-2650
Laguna Niguel Public Works	(949)	362-4337
Laguna Woods Public Works	(949)	639-0500
Lake Forest Public Works	(949)	461-3480
Los Alamitos Community Dev.	(562)	431-3538
Mission Viejo Public Works	(949)	470-3056
Newport Beach, Code & Water		
Quality Enforcement	(949)	644-3215
Orange Public Works	(714)	532-6480
Placentia Public Works	(714)	993-8245
Rancho Santa Margarita	(949)	635-1800
San Clemente Environmental Programs	(949)	361-6143
San Juan Capistrano Engineering	(949)	234-4413
Santa Ana Public Works	(714)	647-3380
Seal Beach Engineering	(562)	431-2527 x317
Stanton Public Works	(714)	379-9222 x204
Tustin Public Works/Engineering	(714)	573-3150
Villa Park Engineering	(714)	998-1500
Westminster Public Works/Engineering	(714)	898-3311 x446
Yorba Linda Engineering	(714)	961-7138
Orange County Stormwater Program	(877)	897-7455
Orange County 24-Hour		
Water Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline		
1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)		

On-line Water Pollution Problem Reporting Form

www.ocwatersheds.com



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