

# Be a Clean Water Leader



Storm water pollution is a problem that affects all of us. With a growing population of more than 1.2 million residents and approximately 237 square miles of urbanized development, keeping our waters clean from pollutants has become increasingly difficult. With more than 39,000 storm drain structures, and over 900 miles of storm drain pipes and channels to clean and maintain, we need your help.

When it rains, water flows over our streets and yards and carries the pollutants it picks up into the storm drains. The problem is that storm drains are not connected to the wastewater treatment plant. So, what's in the streets flows directly into our creeks, lakes, rivers and the ocean, *untreated*.

Last year, too many of our beaches and bays were closed or posted as unsafe for swimming. As our Mayor has said, "this is more than an inconvenience; it is a civic embarrassment."

But, as a City resident, you can make a difference. By becoming a Clean Water Leader, both on the job and in your community, you can help make our beaches and bays free of pollution. When you're at home, share your knowledge with neighbors and family. As you drive to work, be aware of any illegal discharges. And, if you do see an illegal discharge, report it.

In the City of San Diego you can call (619) 235-1000. Or, if you see an illegal discharge outside of the City of San Diego, you can call the regional hotline at 1-888-THINK-BLue. By working together we can make a difference.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Whether at home or at work, by adopting some simple Best Management Practices (BMPs), you can stop pollutants from being generated and entering our storm drain system.

- Use dry clean-up methods for spills and outdoor cleaning. Vacuum, sweep, and use rags or dry absorbants.
- Properly label, store and dispose of hazardous wastes.
- Rake, sweep-up, and place all debris (dust, litter, sediment, etc.) from your yard or near your property into a trash can.
- Use a mop where water is needed.

As you perform your daily activities be proactive. Assess the activity from a stormwater pollution point-of-view and ask yourself; "does this activity, directly or indirectly, generate pollution?" And, "how can I get the job done and prevent debris from entering into the storm drain collection system?" Here are some general guidelines you can use at home or on the job:

## The 3 Cs

**Control:** Locate the nearest storm drain(s) and take measures to ensure nothing will enter or discharge into them. This may require you to sweep-up and place debris & sediment in a trash can prior to beginning the work activity.

**Contain:** Isolate your work area, to prevent any potential flow or discharge from leaving the area.



**Capture:** Once you have completed a job, be sure to clean-up the area. If there is sediment, sweep it up. If there are liquids, absorb it or vacuum it up with a wet-vac.

Remember, what you leave behind can potentially be discharged into the storm drain.

This information is available in alternative formats upon request.



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