



Don't abandon your  
trash on the streets.  
Help keep our  
neighborhoods and  
waterways clean!  
**[rcwatershed.org](http://rcwatershed.org)**



**RIVERSIDE COUNTY**  
WATERSHED PROTECTION

## WHAT IS CONSIDERED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE?

- **Gardening products:** pesticides, herbicides, poisons, fertilizers, and garden chemicals
- **Outdoor Products:** BBQ propane tanks, kerosene lamp oil, lighter fluid, and pool chemicals
- **Paint products:** paint, stain, varnish, adhesive, paint thinner, resin, epoxy, caulking, and wood preservatives
- **Household Products:** batteries, cooking oil, fluorescent tubes & bulbs, light ballasts, smoke detectors, and mercury thermostats

*All of these products must be properly disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Facility OR Antifreeze, Batteries, Oil & Paint Collection Facility.*

### TIPS FOR HANDLING AND STORING HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PRODUCTS:

- **NEVER** mix any products together. Mixing products can be very dangerous.
- Keep products in their original containers with labels on.
- Follow storage directions that are provided on the product's label.



### PERMANENT HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION FACILITIES:

#### Agua Mansa

1780 Agua Mansa Road  
Jurupa Valley  
Open: Non-Holiday weekend  
Saturdays only  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM

#### Lake Elsinore

512 N. Langstaff Street  
Lake Elsinore  
Open: October-May:  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
June-September:  
7:00 AM to 12:00 PM

#### Palm Springs

1100 Vella Road  
Palm Springs  
Open: Non-Holiday weekend  
Saturdays only  
October-May  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM  
June-September  
7:00 AM to 12:00 PM

### ANTIFREEZE, BATTERIES, OIL & PAINT COLLECTION FACILITIES:

#### Beaumont -

##### Hemet Area

Lamb Canyon Landfill  
16411 Lamb Canyon Road  
Beaumont  
Open: Monday through  
Saturday 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM

#### Moreno Valley Area

Badlands Landfill  
31125 Ironwood Ave  
Moreno Valley  
Open: Monday through  
Saturday 6:00 AM to 4:30 PM

#### Murrieta -

##### Temecula Area

County Road Yard  
25315 Jefferson Avenue  
Murrieta  
Open: Non-Holiday weekend  
Saturdays only  
9:00 AM to 2:00 PM



## TIPS FOR EMPLOYEES ABOUT COMMON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS ITEMS

Help your customers make eco-friendly decisions by offering these helpful tips!

[rcwatershed.org](http://rcwatershed.org)



## GARDENING PRODUCTS

Gardening products that contain harmful chemicals can pose a threat to our waterways when washed down the storm drain.

### Tips for Usage:

- To prevent water contamination, these products shouldn't be used before rainfall or before irrigation.
- When applying pesticides to plants, only spray the spots where the pest is most prevalent.



## OVERIRRIGATION

Overirrigation is one of the ways we create runoff at home which can carry pollutants into our waterways.

### Tips for Usage:

- Water less frequently
- Fix leaking sprinklers
- Check that your sprinkler heads are not pointing towards the street or sidewalk
- Install smart sprinklers, which have water-saving features like scheduled irrigation and weather awareness

## BATTERY PRODUCTS

Batteries must be safely disposed of at [Antifreeze, Batteries Oil & Paint Collection Facilities](#) OR [Household Hazardous Waste Facilities](#).

### Did you know?

When batteries end up in the landfill, the metals and chemicals can leak into the ground and into our waterways. This applies to ALL batteries, including alkaline, rechargeable, and automotive.

## PAINT PRODUCTS



Paint is formulated with many chemicals that require proper disposal at an [Antifreeze, Batteries Oil & Paint Collection Facility](#) OR a [Household Hazardous Waste Facility](#).

### Tips for Usage:

- Paint products should **NEVER** be poured down the drain.
- Brushes used with water-based paint can be washed in the sink with water.
- Brushes used with oil-based paint should be cleaned using paint thinner. Paint thinner should be stored for reuse or disposed of at a [Household Hazardous Waste Facility](#).
- Empty paint cans should be left to dry before disposal into the trash can.





## Riverside County Stormwater Program Members

City of Banning  
(951) 922-3105

City of Beaumont  
(951) 769-8520

City of Calimesa  
(909) 795-9801

City of Canyon Lake  
(951) 244-2955

City of Cathedral City  
(760) 770-0340

City of Coachella  
(760) 398-3502

City of Corona  
(951) 736-2447

City of Desert Hot Springs  
(760) 329-6411

City of Eastvale  
(951) 361-0900

City of Hemet  
(951) 765-2300

City of Indian Wells  
(760) 346-2489

City of Indio  
(760) 391-4000

City of Jurupa Valley  
(951) 332-6464

City of Lake Elsinore  
(951) 674-3124

City of La Quinta  
(760) 777-7000

City of Menifee  
(951) 672-6777

City of Moreno Valley  
(951) 413-3000

City of Murrieta  
(951) 304-2489

City of Norco  
(951) 270-5607

City of Palm Desert  
(760) 346-0611

City of Palm Springs  
(760) 323-8299

City of Perris  
(951) 943-6100

City of Rancho Mirage  
(760) 324-4511

City of Riverside  
(951) 826-5311

City of San Jacinto  
(951) 487-7330

City of Temecula  
(951) 694-6444

City of Wildomar  
(951) 677-7751

Coachella Valley Water District  
(760) 398-2651

County of Riverside  
(951) 955-1000

Riverside County Flood Control District  
(951) 955-1200

# Stormwater Pollution

*What you should know for...*

## Industrial & Commercial Facilities

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for:

- Industrial Facilities
- Commercial Facilities



# YOU can prevent Stormwater Pollution following these practices...

## Industrial and Commercial Facilities

The Riverside County Stormwater Program has identified a number of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Industrial and Commercial Facilities. These BMPs control and reduce stormwater pollutants from reaching our storm drain system and ultimately our local water bodies. City and County ordinances require businesses to use these BMPs to protect our water quality. Local cities and the County are required to verify implementation of these BMPs by performing regular facility inspections.

### Prohibited Discharges

Discontinue all non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system. It is *prohibited* to discharge any chemicals, paints, debris, wastes or wastewater into the gutter, street or storm drain.

### Outdoor Storage BMPs

- Install covers and secondary containment areas for all hazardous materials and wastes stored outdoors in accordance with County and/or City standards.
- Keep all temporary waste containers covered, at all times when not in use.
- Sweep outdoor areas instead of using a hose or pressure washer.
- Move all process operations including vehicle/equipment maintenance inside of the building or under a covered and contained area.
- Wash equipment and vehicles in a contained and covered wash bay which is closed-loop or connected to a clarifier sized to local standards and discharged to a sanitary sewer or take them to a commercial car wash.



### Spills and Clean Up BMPs

- Keep the work site clean and orderly. Remove debris in a timely fashion. Sweep up the area.
- Clean up spills immediately when they occur, using dry clean up methods such as absorbent materials or sweep followed by proper disposal of materials.

- Always have a spill kit available near chemical loading dock doors and vehicle maintenance and fueling areas.
- Follow your Business Emergency Plan, as filed with the local Fire Department.
- Report all prohibited discharges and non-implementation of BMPs to your local Stormwater Coordinator as listed on the back of this pamphlet.
- Report hazardous materials spills to 951-358-5055 or call after hours to 951-782-2973 or, if an emergency, call the Fire Department's Haz Mat Team at 911.



## Plastic Manufacturing Facilities BMPs

AB 258 requires plastic product manufacturers to use BMPs, such as safe storage and clean-up procedures to prevent plastic pellets (nurdles) from entering the waterway. The plastic pellets are released into the environment during transporting, packaging and processing and migrate to waterways through the storm drain system. AB 258 will help protect fish and wildlife from the hazards of plastic pollution.

### Training BMPs

As prescribed by your City and County Stormwater Ordinance(s), train employees in spill procedures and prohibit non-stormwater discharges to the storm drain system. Applicable BMP examples can be found at [www.cabmphandbooks.com](http://www.cabmphandbooks.com).

### Permitting

Stormwater discharges associated with specific categories for industrial facilities are regulated by the State Water Resources Control Board through an Industrial Stormwater General Permit. A copy of this General Permit and application forms are available at: [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov), select stormwater then the industrial quick link.

To report illegal dumping or for more information on stormwater pollution prevention call: 1-800-506-2555 or e-mail us at: [fcnpdes@rcfllood.org](mailto:fcnpdes@rcfllood.org).



RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
WATERSHED PROTECTION

# Irrigation Runoff Stormwater Fact Sheet

Report Irrigation Runoff or  
Stormwater Pollution  
**800.506.2555**



## Be the Solution. Prevent Runoff Pollution.

**The water that flows into storm drains is not treated** before flowing into Riverside County's creeks, rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean (unlike the sanitary sewer system). It should never contain washwater or pollutants like pesticides, fertilizer, dirt, leaves, and other hazardous substances generated by irrigation runoff. If these pollutants are not properly contained, they can runoff into the storm drain and harm our waterways.

Preventing runoff pollution while maintaining your property protects aquatic life, water quality, and keeps our waterways thriving. To take care of your green spaces, make sure to only use pesticides and fertilizers when absolutely necessary and never before rain, prevent overwatering, and sweep debris regularly.

## Irrigation Pollutant Sources

### Overwatering

Overwatering can cause dirt, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, and organic waste to flow into the storm drain.

### Pesticide, Fertilizer, or Herbicide Use

Pesticide, fertilizer, or herbicide use 48 hours before or during rain can lead to these chemicals going untreated into our waterways.

### Improper Maintenance Before Rain

Leaving pet waste, leaves, grass clippings, and chemicals on the ground (from property neglect or landscape maintenance) before or during rain can cause them to flow into the storm drain.

### Runoff From Commercial Properties

Commercial properties, like golf courses, can cause pesticides, dirt, oil, and other hazardous waste to runoff.

# Best Management Practices for Irrigation

Protect our waterways while maintaining your green spaces by implementing these BMPs (best management practices):



For more information about stormwater-safe irrigation practices, visit: [rcwatershed.org/residents/at-home/overwatering/](https://rcwatershed.org/residents/at-home/overwatering/).

## Who We Are

Riverside County Watershed Protection is a partnership program between Riverside County, the Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and 27 cities that manage watershed programs which protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of the water and the natural environment of our watersheds.

## What We Do

The partnership uses a combination of public education, best management practices, evaluation, and water quality monitoring to eliminate stormwater pollution in our waterways and comply with all federal, state, and local regulations. Our aim is to empower residents with information about pollution prevention and implement tactics that keep our watersheds healthy.

## Contact Us

To report pollution:

📞 Call (800) 506-2555

📱 Visit [rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution](https://rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution)

⚠️ For emergencies, dial 911



## Prevent Overwatering

- ✓ Only give your lawn and garden the amount of water it needs, and use drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems. Do not water when it is raining and use an irrigation timer to pre-set watering times.
- ✓ Conduct a Sprinkler Spruce Up regularly to ensure overwatering and runoff aren't occurring. If you notice a leak in your irrigation system, repair it immediately.
- ✓ Redirect your downspout to a rain garden, dry creek bed, rain barrel, or underwatered part of your lawn.



## Plant Riverside County-Native Vegetation

- ✓ Plant native vegetation like foothill penstemon and red bush monkeyflower to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers, and pesticides needed.
- ✓ Plant fast-growing and dense ground covering plants like California fuchsia and Angelita daisy to prevent erosion. For landscaping ideas visit: [www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com).



## Utilize Business Best Practices

- ✓ Wash golf carts and lawn mowers over permeable surfaces.
- ✓ Cover storm drains when conducting washing and maintenance activities to prevent washwater from flowing into the storm drain.
- ✓ If your golf course handles reportable quantities of hazardous waste, you are required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan through the California Environmental Reporting System. Visit [rcwaste.org/business/hw](https://rcwaste.org/business/hw) for more info.
- ✓ Keep stockpiles at least 50 feet from concentrated flows of stormwater, drainage courses, and inlets.
- ✓ Regularly inspect and maintain oil storage tanks, drums, and areas to keep them in good condition.
- ✓ Utilize a commercial water broom to wash hard surfaces like tennis courts, patios, parking areas, and sidewalks, and make sure washwater never enters the storm drain system.



RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
WATERSHED PROTECTION

# Riverside's Solution to Runoff Pollution

## What is Runoff?

When water from rain and outdoor water use runs off roofs, driveways, and sidewalks, it brings everything it touches with it. This runoff can include trash, fertilizer, pet waste, home solvents, and other pollutants which ends up in Riverside County's waterways.

## Water that goes into Riverside County's storm drains is NOT TREATED

Whether residents or businesses intentionally or accidentally let runoff flow into storm drains, it can harm our creeks, rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean. While wastewater from toilets, sinks, and showers gets treated, water that flows into the storm drain goes untreated into our waterways.

## What Common Pollutants are Found in Runoff?

Here are some common pollutants and actions you can take to prevent them from flowing into Riverside County's storm drains and waterways.



# Pollutants and Prevention

## Pet Waste

Pet waste has harmful bacteria that can contaminate Riverside County's bodies of water and neighboring ecosystems. This can lead to residents getting sick, algal blooms, and plants and animals dying. Always pick up after your pet on walks and in your yard, especially before it rains.

## Trash

Litter like cigarette butts, candy and food wrappers/containers, and straws can harm our waterways and cause drainage issues. Make sure to place all trash in covered trash cans to prevent wind or rain from taking it into the storm drain system.

## Automotive Chemicals

Liquids like motor oil, fuels, lubricants, and antifreeze can damage water quality and harm wildlife if they get into our creeks, rivers, and lakes. Make sure to repair leaking vehicles as soon as possible and clean spills with absorbents available at home and auto supply shops. Used engine oil can be recycled at the Murrieta, Beaumont, or Moreno Valley ABOP and PaintCare Facilities or where the oil was purchased.

## Yard Clippings

If yard clippings aren't properly disposed of, they can cause erosion, flooding, and prevent stormwater drainage. Collect all clippings after doing yard work and properly dispose of them by composting or placing them in a green waste bin.

## Fertilizers and Pesticides

These can enter the storm drain after it rains or when landscaped areas are over irrigated. Limit your pesticide, fertilizer, and herbicide use by using non-chemical methods whenever possible. If they are necessary, follow the manufacturer's instructions and do not apply them 48 hours before predicted rain.

## Soapy Car Wash Water

Dirt and debris from your car, along with chemicals in the soap, can harm our creeks, rivers, and lakes if they flow untreated into our waterways. Wash your car over a gravel or grassy area, or take it to a commercial car wash to limit runoff pollution.

## Household Chemicals

Paint and other household chemicals like solvents, degreasers, and drain cleaners are hazardous to aquatic life and human health if they get into the storm drain system. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions, clean spills with absorbents, and dispose of unused paints and household chemicals at the Murrieta, Beaumont, or Moreno Valley ABOP and PaintCare Facilities ([rcwaste.org/hhw](http://rcwaste.org/hhw)).



For more information about keeping our waterways clean, visit: [rcwatershed.org/about/stormwater-pollution-prevention](http://rcwatershed.org/about/stormwater-pollution-prevention).

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Call (800) 506-2555



Visit [rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution](http://rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution)

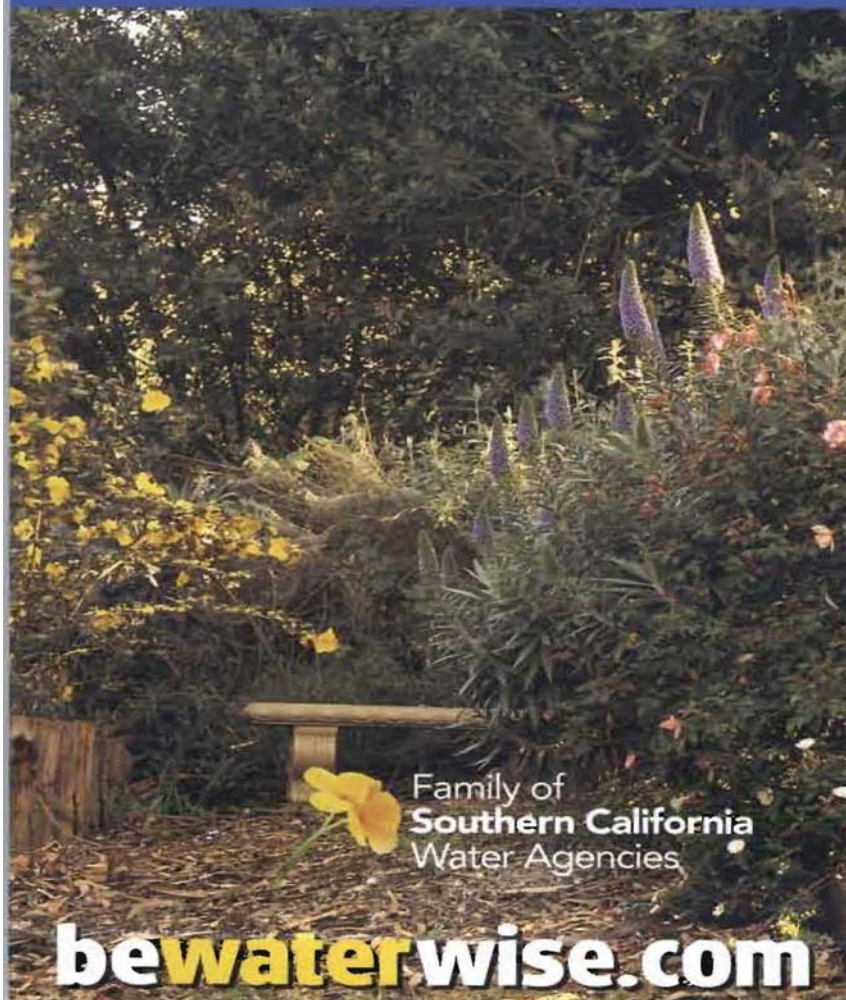


For emergencies, dial 911



RIVERSIDE COUNTY  
WATERSHED PROTECTION

# 10 Ways to **Save** Water Outdoors



Family of  
**Southern California**  
Water Agencies

**bewaterwise.com**

**TIP #1** The average homeowner uses twice the amount of water needed to keep plants healthy. Use the watering calculator and index at [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) to know exactly how much water your plants need.

**TIP #2** Check your sprinkler system for leaks, overspray and broken sprinkler heads. Update with drip or other more water-efficient sprinklers where appropriate.

**TIP #3** This fall, plant a portion of your garden with beautiful native and California Friendly plants. Browse the plant database at [bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com) to find just the right look for your outdoor spaces.

**TIP #4** Reduce the amount of water-thirsty grass. Keep only what you need and replace the rest with less-thirsty plants or permeable paving.

**TIP #5** For the grass you keep, set your lawnmower blade higher.

**TIP #6** Adjust your sprinkler timer downward in September. Plants need less water when days are shorter.

**TIP #7** Use a broom instead of the hose for cleaning sidewalks and patios.

**TIP #8** Mulch! A layer of bark, gravel, compost, sawdust or low-growing groundcover evens out soil temperature and allows better water retention.

**TIP #9** Check the list of invasive plants that hurt our environment at [caleppc.org](http://caleppc.org) and remove any from your garden.

**TIP #10** Share these tips with your gardener, neighbors and friends. Water conservation should be a part of every Southern Californian's lifestyle, but that doesn't mean we can't have lush and beautiful outdoor spaces.

**[bewaterwise.com](http://bewaterwise.com)**



# A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Stormwater



EPA 833-B-03-002

January 2003

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or visit  
[www.epa.gov/nps/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/nps/stormwater)  
[www.epa.gov/nps](http://www.epa.gov/nps)

For more information contact:



## After the Storm

### What is stormwater runoff?



Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

### Why is stormwater runoff a problem?



Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.

### The effects of pollution

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.

- ◆ Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- ◆ Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- ◆ Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards, often making beach closures necessary.
- ◆ Debris—plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts—washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.
- ◆ Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.



- ◆ Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

# Stormwater Pollution Solutions

## Residential

*Recycle or properly dispose of household products that contain chemicals, such as insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, and used motor oil and other auto fluids. Don't pour them onto the ground or into storm drains.*

### Lawn care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to streams.

- ◆ Don't overwater your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose instead of a sprinkler.
- ◆ Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch or safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- ◆ Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- ◆ Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.



### Septic systems

Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies. Pathogens can cause public health problems and environmental concerns.

- ◆ Inspect your system every 3 years and pump your tank as necessary (every 3 to 5 years).
- ◆ Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.



### Auto care

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants through the storm sewer system. Dumping automotive fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.

- ◆ Use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car on your yard so the water infiltrates into the ground.
- ◆ Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off or recycling locations.



### Pet waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.

- ◆ When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.



## Residential landscaping

**Permeable Pavement**—Traditional concrete and asphalt don't allow water to soak into the ground. Instead these surfaces rely on storm drains to divert unwanted water. Permeable pavement systems allow rain and snowmelt to soak through, decreasing stormwater runoff.

**Rain Barrels**—You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.

**Rain Gardens and Grassy Swales**—Specially designed areas planted with native plants can provide natural places for rainwater to collect and soak into the ground. Rain from rooftop areas or paved areas can be diverted into these areas rather than into storm drains.

**Vegetated Filter Strips**—Filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks up as it flows across driveways and streets.



## Commercial

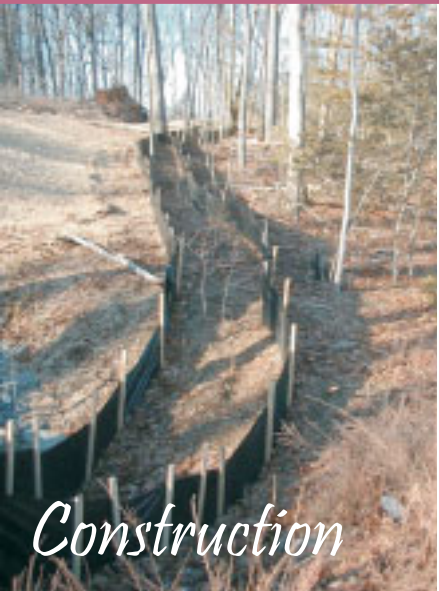
Dirt, oil, and debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas can be washed into the storm sewer system and eventually enter local waterbodies.

- ◆ Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.
- ◆ Cover grease storage and dumpsters and keep them clean to avoid leaks.
- ◆ Report any chemical spill to the local hazardous waste cleanup team. They'll know the best way to keep spills from harming the environment.

Erosion controls that aren't maintained can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the stormwater system. Construction vehicles can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater and deposited into local waterbodies.

- ◆ Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site.
- ◆ Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover, and other sediment and erosion controls and properly maintain them, especially after rainstorms.
- ◆ Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects, and seed and mulch bare areas as soon as possible.

## Construction



## Agriculture

Lack of vegetation on streambanks can lead to erosion. Overgrazed pastures can also contribute excessive amounts of sediment to local waterbodies. Excess fertilizers and pesticides can poison aquatic animals and lead to destructive algae blooms. Livestock in streams can contaminate waterways with bacteria, making them unsafe for human contact.

- ◆ Keep livestock away from streambanks and provide them a water source away from waterbodies.
- ◆ Store and apply manure away from waterbodies and in accordance with a nutrient management plan.
- ◆ Vegetate riparian areas along waterways.
- ◆ Rotate animal grazing to prevent soil erosion in fields.
- ◆ Apply fertilizers and pesticides according to label instructions to save money and minimize pollution.



## Forestry

Improperly managed logging operations can result in erosion and sedimentation.

- ◆ Conduct preharvest planning to prevent erosion and lower costs.
- ◆ Use logging methods and equipment that minimize soil disturbance.
- ◆ Plan and design skid trails, yard areas, and truck access roads to minimize stream crossings and avoid disturbing the forest floor.
- ◆ Construct stream crossings so that they minimize erosion and physical changes to streams.
- ◆ Expedite revegetation of cleared areas.

## Automotive Facilities



Uncovered fueling stations allow spills to be washed into storm drains. Cars waiting to be repaired can leak fuel, oil, and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by stormwater.

- ◆ Clean up spills immediately and properly dispose of cleanup materials.
- ◆ Provide cover over fueling stations and design or retrofit facilities for spill containment.
- ◆ Properly maintain fleet vehicles to prevent oil, gas, and other discharges from being washed into local waterbodies.
- ◆ Install and maintain oil/water separators.



**L**andscaping and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to water pollution. Soils, yard wastes, over-watering and garden chemicals become part of the urban runoff mix that winds its way through streets, gutters and storm drains before entering lakes, rivers, streams, etc. Urban runoff pollution contaminates water and harms aquatic life!

In Riverside County, report illegal discharges into the storm drain, call  
**1-800-506-2555**  
"Only Rain Down the Storm Drain"

**Important Links:**

Riverside County Household Hazardous  
Waste Collection Information  
1-800-304-2226 or [www.rivcowm.org](http://www.rivcowm.org)

Riverside County Backyard  
Composting Program  
1-800-366-SAVE

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Solutions  
[www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu)

California Master Gardener Programs  
[www.mastergardeners.org](http://www.mastergardeners.org)  
[www.camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu](http://www.camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu)

California Native Plant Society  
[www.cnps.org](http://www.cnps.org)

The Riverside County "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain"  
Pollution Prevention Program gratefully acknowledges  
Orange County's Storm Water Program for their  
contribution to this brochure.

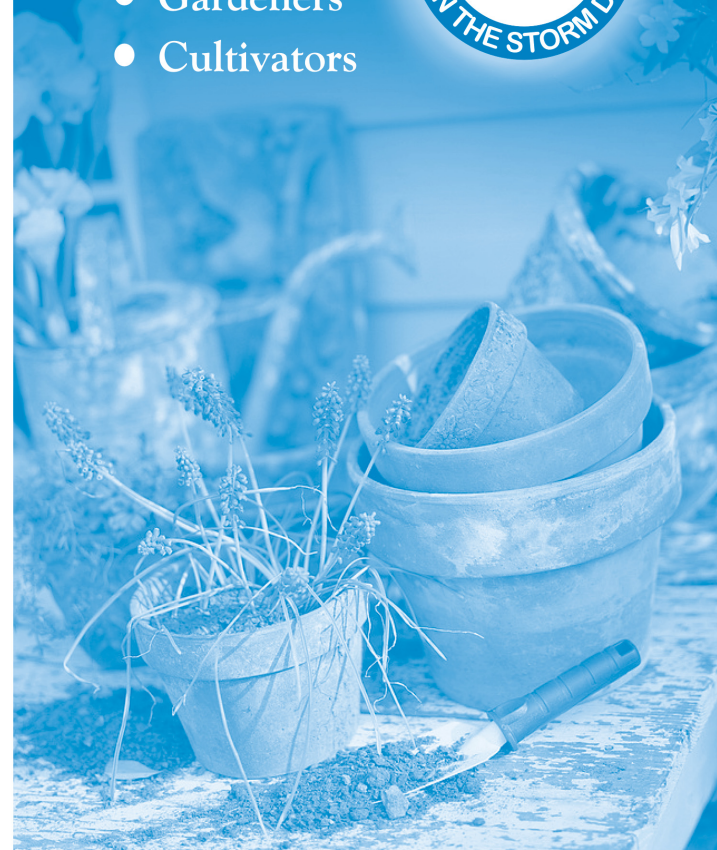


## ...Only Rain Down ...the Storm Drain

*What you should know for...  
Landscape and Gardening*

Best Management tips for:

- Professionals
- Novices
- Landscapers
- Gardeners
- Cultivators



# Tips for Landscape & Gardening

This brochure will help you to get the most of your lawn and gardening efforts and keep our waterways clean. Clean waterways provide recreation, establish thriving fish habitats, secure safe sanctuaries for wildlife, and add beauty to our communities. NEVER allow gardening products or waste water to enter the street, gutter or storm drain.

## General Landscaping Tips

- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Prevent erosion of slopes by planting fast-growing, dense ground covering plants. These will shield and bind the soil.
- Plant native vegetation to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers and pesticides applied to the landscape.
- Never apply pesticides or fertilizers when rain is predicted within the next 48 hours.



## Garden & Lawn Maintenance

- Do not overwater. Use irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.

- Do not rake or blow leaves, clippings or pruning waste into the street, gutter or storm drain. Instead, dispose of green waste by composting, hauling it to a permitted landfill, or recycling it through your city's program.



- Consider recycling your green waste and adding "nature's own fertilizer" to your lawn or garden.
- Read labels and use only as directed. Do not over-apply pesticides or fertilizers. Apply to spots as needed, rather than blanketing an entire area.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals in a dry covered area to prevent exposure that may result in the deterioration of containers and packaging.
- Rinse empty pesticide containers and re-use rinse water as you would use the product. Do not dump rinse water down storm drains or sewers. Dispose of empty containers in the trash.
- When available, use non-toxic alternatives to traditional pesticides, and use pesticides specifically designed to control the pest you are targeting.

- Try natural long-term common sense solutions first. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can provide landscaping guidance and solutions, such as:

- ◆ **Physical Controls** - Try hand picking, barriers, traps or caulking holes to control weeds and pests.
- ◆ **Biological Controls** - Use predatory insects to control harmful pests.
- ◆ **Chemical Controls** - Check out [www.ipm.ucdavis.edu](http://www.ipm.ucdavis.edu) before using chemicals. Remember, all chemicals should be used cautiously and in moderation.

- If fertilizer is spilled, sweep up the spill before irrigating. If the spill is liquid, apply an absorbent material such as cat litter, and then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash.
- Take unwanted pesticides to a Household Waste Collection Center to be recycled.
- *Dumping toxics into the street, gutter or storm drain is illegal!*

[www.bewaterwise.com](http://www.bewaterwise.com) Great water conservation tips and drought tolerant garden designs.

[www.ourwaterourworld.com](http://www.ourwaterourworld.com) Learn how to safely manage home and garden pests.

Additional information can also be found on the back of this brochure.

Helpful telephone numbers and links:

Riverside County Stormwater Protection Partners

Flood Control District	(951) 955-1200
County of Riverside	(951) 955-1000
City of Banning	(951) 922-3105
City of Beaumont	(951) 769-8520
City of Calimesa	(909) 795-9801
City of Canyon Lake	(951) 244-2955
Cathedral City	(760) 770-0327
City of Coachella	(760) 398-4978
City of Corona	(951) 736-2447
City of Desert Hot Springs	(760) 329-6411
City of Eastvale	(951) 361-0900
City of Hemet	(951) 765-2300
City of Indian Wells	(760) 346-2489
City of Indio	(760) 391-4000
City of Lake Elsinore	(951) 674-3124
City of La Quinta	(760) 777-7000
City of Menifee	(951) 672-6777
City of Moreno Valley	(951) 413-3000
City of Murrieta	(951) 304-2489
City of Norco	(951) 270-5607
City of Palm Desert	(760) 346-0611
City of Palm Springs	(760) 323-8299
City of Perris	(951) 943-6100
City of Rancho Mirage	(760) 324-4511
City of Riverside	(951) 361-0900
City of San Jacinto	(951) 654-7337
City of Temecula	(951) 694-6444
City of Wildomar	(951) 677-7751

REPORT ILLEGAL STORM DRAIN DISPOSAL  
1-800-506-2555 or e-mail us at  
[fcnpdes@rcflood.org](mailto:fcnpdes@rcflood.org)

- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
[www.rcflood.org](http://www.rcflood.org)

Online resources include:

- California Storm Water Quality Association  
[www.casqa.org](http://www.casqa.org)
- State Water Resources Control Board  
[www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)
- Power Washers of North America  
[www.thepwna.org](http://www.thepwna.org)

Stormwater Pollution

What you should know for...

Outdoor Cleaning Activities and Professional Mobile Service Providers



Storm drain pollution prevention information for:

- Car Washing / Mobile Detailers
- Window and Carpet Cleaners
- Power Washers
- Waterproofers / Street Sweepers
- Equipment cleaners or degreasers and all mobile service providers

Do you know where street flows actually go?

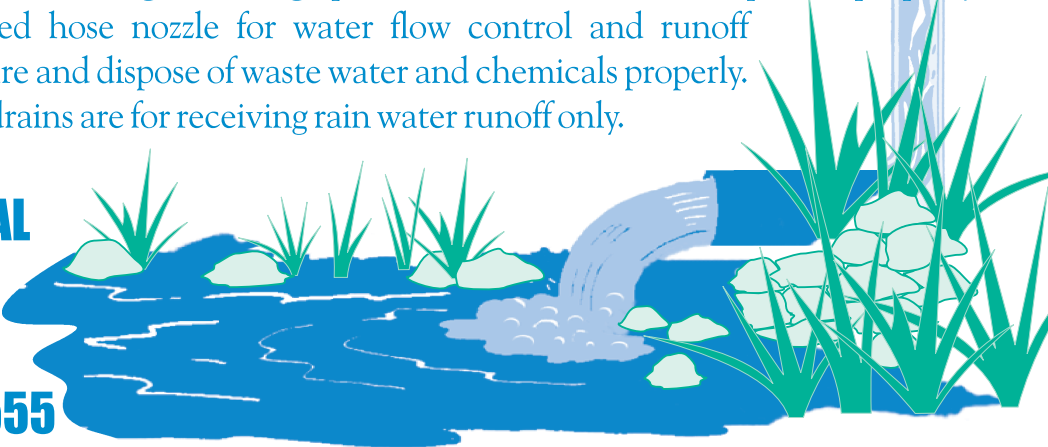
Storm drains are NOT connected to sanitary sewer systems and treatment plants!



The primary purpose of storm drains is to carry *rain* water away from developed areas to prevent flooding. Pollutants discharged to storm drains are transported directly into rivers, lakes and streams. Soaps, degreasers, automotive fluids, litter and a host of materials are washed off buildings, sidewalks, plazas and parking areas. Vehicles and equipment must be properly managed to prevent the pollution of local waterways.

Unintentional spills by mobile service operators can flow into storm drains and pollute our waterways. **Avoid mishaps.** Always have a **Spill Response Kit** on hand to clean up unintentional spills. Only emergency **Mechanical** repairs should be done in City streets, using drip pans for spills. **Plumbing** should be done on private property. Always store chemicals in a leak-proof container and keep covered when not in use. **Window/Power Washing** waste water shouldn't be released into the streets, but should be disposed of in a sanitary sewer, landscaped area or in the soil. Soiled **Carpet Cleaning** wash water should be filtered before being discharged into the sanitary sewer. Dispose of all filter debris properly. **Car Washing/Detailing** operators should wash cars on private property and use a regulated hose nozzle for water flow control and runoff prevention. Capture and dispose of waste water and chemicals properly. Remember, storm drains are for receiving rain water runoff only.

REPORT ILLEGAL STORM DRAIN DISPOSAL  
1-800-506-2555



# Help Protect Our Waterways!

Use these guidelines for Outdoor Cleaning Activities and Wash Water Disposal

**D**id you know that disposing of pollutants into the street, gutter, storm drain or body of water is **PROHIBITED** by law and can result in stiff penalties?

## Best Management Practices

Waste wash water from Mechanics, Plumbers, Window/Power Washers, Carpet Cleaners, Car Washing and Mobile Detailing activities may contain significant quantities of motor oil, grease, chemicals, dirt, detergents, brake pad dust, litter and other materials.

Best Management Practices, or BMPs as they are known, are guides to prevent pollutants from entering the storm drains. *Each of us* can do our part to keep stormwater clean by using the suggested BMPs below:

## Simple solutions for both light and heavy duty jobs:

**Do...**consider dry cleaning methods first such as a mop, broom, rag or wire brush. Always keep a spill response kit on site.

**Do...**prepare the work area before power cleaning by using sand bags, rubber mats, vacuum booms, containment pads or temporary berms to keep wash water away from the gutters and storm drains.

**Do...**use vacuums or other machines to remove and collect loose debris or litter before applying water.

**Do...**obtain the property owner's permission to dispose of *small amounts* of power washing waste water on to landscaped, gravel or unpaved surfaces.

**Do...**check your local sanitary sewer agency's policies on wash water disposal regulations before disposing of wash water into the sewer. (See list on reverse side)

**Do...**be aware that if discharging to landscape areas, soapy wash water may damage landscaping. Residual wash water may remain on paved surfaces to evaporate. Sweep up solid residuals and dispose of properly. Vacuum booms are another option for capturing and collecting wash water.

**Do...**check to see if local ordinances prevent certain activities.

**Do not let...**wash or waste water from sidewalk, plaza or building cleaning go into a street or storm drain.



Report illegal storm drain disposal  
Call Toll Free  
**1-800-506-2555**

## Using Cleaning Agents

Try using biodegradable/phosphate-free products. They are easier on the environment, but don't confuse them with being toxic free. Soapy water entering the storm drain system can impact the delicate aquatic environment.



When cleaning surfaces with a *high-pressure washer* or *steam cleaner*, additional precautions should be taken to prevent the discharge of pollutants into the storm drain system. These two methods of surface cleaning can loosen additional material that can contaminate local waterways.

## Think Water Conservation

Minimize water use by using high pressure, low volume nozzles. Be sure to check all hoses for leaks. Water is a precious resource, don't let it flow freely and be sure to shut it off in between uses.

## Screening Wash Water

Conduct thorough dry cleanup before washing exterior surfaces, such as buildings and decks *with loose paint*, sidewalks or plaza areas. Keep debris from entering the storm drain after cleaning by first passing the wash water through a "20 mesh" or finer screen to catch the solid materials, then dispose of the mesh in a refuse container. Do not let the remaining wash water enter a street, gutter or storm drain.

## Drain Inlet Protection & Collection of Wash Water

- Prior to any washing, block all storm drains with an impervious barrier such as sandbags or berms, or seal the storm drain with plugs or other appropriate materials.
- Create a containment area with berms and traps or take advantage of a low spot to keep wash water contained.
- Wash vehicles and equipment on grassy or gravel areas so that the wash water can seep into the ground.
- Pump or vacuum up all wash water in the contained area.

## Concrete/Coring/Saw Cutting and Drilling Projects

Protect any down-gradient inlets by using dry activity techniques whenever possible. If water is used, minimize the amount of water used during the coring/drilling or saw cutting process. Place a barrier of sandbags and/or absorbent berms to protect the storm drain inlet or watercourse. Use a shovel or wet vacuum to remove the residue from the pavement. Do not wash residue or particulate matter into a storm drain inlet or watercourse.

# Saltwater Pools

- Salt water pools, although different from regular pools, are in fact, sanitized using chlorine. A salt-chlorine generator separates the chlorine and sodium molecules in salt and reintroduces them into the pool water. The same harmful effects of chlorine still apply.
- A salt water pool is still maintained with chemicals such as Muriatic acid, soda ash and sodium carbonate to help keep a proper pH, total Alkalinity, Calcium Hardness and Stabilizer levels.



- It may be illegal to discharge salt water to land. The salt may kill plants and the build-up of salt in soil puts animals, plants, and groundwater at risk. Consult your city representatives to determine local requirements regarding salt water drainage.

**NEVER** put unused chemicals into the trash, onto the ground or down a storm drain.

**IMPORTANT:** The discharge of pollutants into the street, gutter, storm drain system or waterways - without a permit or waiver - is strictly prohibited by local ordinances, state and federal law. Violations may result in monetary fines and enforcement actions.

# Helpful telephone numbers and links

## RIVERSIDE COUNTY WATER AGENCIES:

City of Banning.....	(951) 922-3130
City of Beaumont/Cherry Valley.....	(951) 845-9581
City of Blythe.....	(760) 922-6161
City of Coachella.....	(760) 398-3502
City of Corona.....	(951) 736-2263
City of Hemet.....	(951) 765-3710
City of Norco.....	(951) 270 5607
City of Riverside Public Works.....	(951) 351-6140
City of San Jacinto.....	(951) 654-4041
Coachella Valley Water District.....	(760) 398-2651
Desert Water Agency (Palm Springs).....	(760) 323-4971
Eastern Municipal Water District.....	(951) 928-3777
Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.....	(951) 674 3146
Elsinore Water District.....	(951) 674-2168
Farm Mutual Water Company.....	(951) 244-4198
Idyllwild Water District.....	(951) 659-2143
Indio Water Authority.....	(760) 391-4129
Jurupa Community Services District.....	(951) 685-7434
Lee Lake Water.....	(951) 658-3241
Mission Springs Water.....	(760) 329-6448
Rancho California Water District.....	(951) 296-6900
Ripley, CSA #62.....	(760) 922-4951
Riverside Co. Service Area #51.....	(760) 227-3203
Rubidoux Community Services District.....	(951) 684-7580
Valley Sanitary District.....	(760) 347-2356
Western Municipal Water District.....	(951) 789-5000
Yucaipa Valley Water District.....	(909) 797-5117

## CALL 1-800-506-2555 to:

- Report clogged storm drains or illegal storm drain disposal from residential, industrial, construction and commercial sites into public streets, storm drains and/or water bodies.
- Find out about our various storm drain pollution prevention materials.
- Locate the dates and times of Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events.
- Request adult, neighborhood, or classroom presentations.
- Locate other County environmental services.
- Receive grasscycling information and composting workshop information.

Or visit our

Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District  
website at: [www.rcflood.org](http://www.rcflood.org)

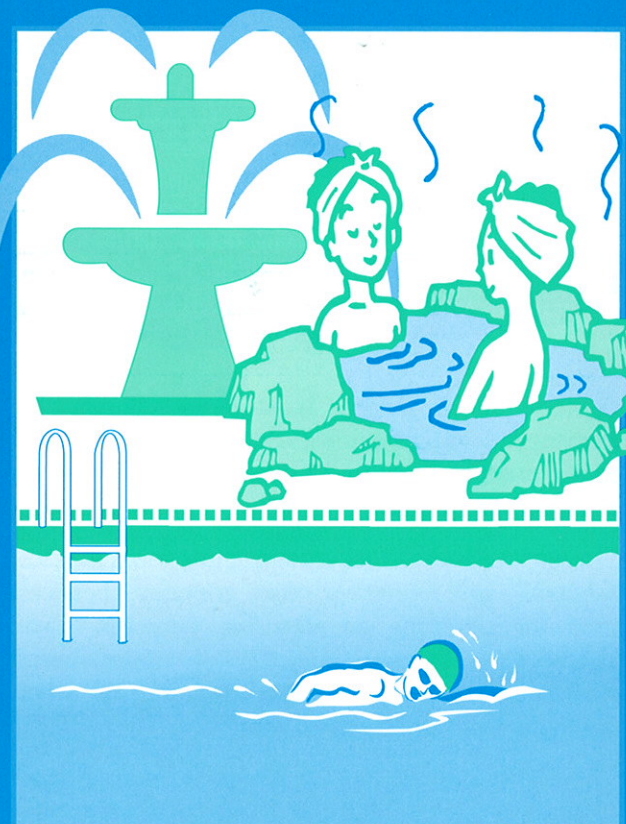
## Other links to additional storm drain pollution information:

- County of Riverside Environmental Health: [www.rivcoeh.org](http://www.rivcoeh.org)
- State Water Resources Control Board: [www.waterboards.ca.gov](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov)
- California Stormwater Quality Association: [www.casqa.org](http://www.casqa.org)
- United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA):  
[www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance](http://www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance) (compliance assistance information)



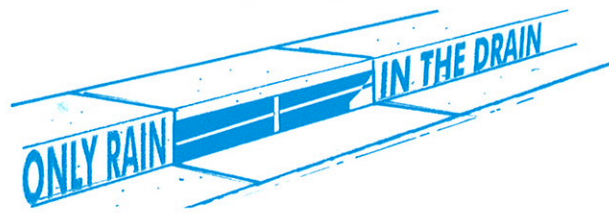
Riverside County's, "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain" Pollution Prevention Program gratefully acknowledges the Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association and the Cleaning Equipment Trade Association for information provided in this brochure.

# Guidelines for Maintaining your...



# Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi and Garden Fountain

# Where does the water go?



Pool, Jacuzzi and Fountain wastewater and rain water runoff (also called stormwater) that reach streets can enter the storm drain and be conveyed directly into local streams, rivers and lakes.



A storm drain's purpose is to prevent flooding by carrying rain water away from developed areas. Storm drains are not connected to sanitary sewers systems and treatment plants!

Wastewater, from residential swimming pools, Jacuzzis, fishponds and fountains, often contains chemicals used for sanitizing or cleansing purposes. Toxic chemicals (such as chlorine or copper-based algaecides) may pollute the environment when discharged into a storm drain system.

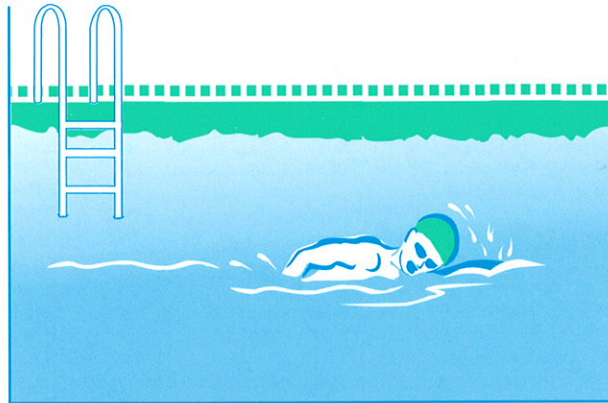
The Cities and County of Riverside have adopted ordinances that prohibit the discharge of wastewater to the street and storm drain system.



# Discharge Regulations

Regulatory requirements for discharging wastewater from your pool may differ from city to city. Chlorinated water should not be discharged into the street, storm drain or surface waters. Check with your water agency to see if disposal to the sanitary sewer line is allowed for pool discharges (see reverse for Riverside County sewer agencies).

If allowed, a hose can be run from the pool Jacuzzi, or fountain to the private sewer cleanout, washing machine drain or a sink or bathtub.



**If you cannot discharge to the sewer,** you may drain your fountain, pool, or jacuzzi to your landscaping by following these guidelines:

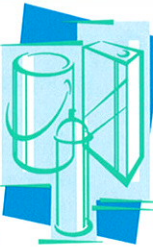
**First,** reduce or eliminate solids (e.g. debris, leaves or dirt) in the pool water and allow the chemicals in the pool water to dissipate before draining the pool (this could take up to 7 days, verify using a home pool test kit).

**Second,** slowly drain to a landscaped area away from buildings or structures. Control the flow to prevent soil erosion; it may take more than one day to empty. Do not allow sediment to enter the street, gutter or storm drain.

# Maintenance & Chemicals

## Cleaning Filters

Filter rinse water and backwash must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, on-site septic tank and drain field system (if properly designed and adequately sized), or a seepage pit. Alternatively, rinse water or backwash may be diverted to landscaped or dirt areas. Filter media and other non-hazardous solids should be picked up and disposed of in the trash.



## Algaecides

Avoid using copper-based algaecides unless absolutely necessary. Control algae with chlorine, organic polymers or other alternatives to copper-based pool chemicals. Copper is a heavy metal that can be toxic to aquatic life when you drain your pool.

## Chemical Storage and Handling

- Use only the amount indicated on product labels
- Store chlorine and other chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff. Keep out of reach of children and pets.
- Chlorine kits, available at retail swimming pool equipment and supply stores, should be used to monitor the chlorine and pH levels before draining your pool.
- Chlorine and other pool chemicals should never be allowed to flow into the gutter or storm drain system.

Take unwanted chemicals to a Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Event. There's no cost for taking HHW items to collection events – it's FREE! Call 1-800-506-2555 for a schedule of HHW events in your community.

