

# What is Storm Water Pollution?

Storm water is the water that flows through gutters and into storm drains when it rains. During dry weather, water also flows into gutters and storm drains as a result of pavement washing, runoff from excess lawn irrigation, residential car washing, and other activities. Unlike the wastewater that flows through the sanitary sewer system to the Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District treatment facility, water that flows through the storm drain system is not treated. It is released directly to local waterways.

Rain water and dry-weather runoff pick up many kinds of pollutants as the water flows across pavement and landscaped areas and carries them into the storm water system and then to waterways.

Trash, yard clipping debris, and other solid waste materials left in streets and gutters are also carried into the storm drain system.

Because of these factors, urban runoff (also called nonpoint source pollution) remains the nation's largest source of water quality problems, according to the U.S. E.P.A.



To report illegal dumping or illicit connection to the City's storm water system, please call non-emergency dispatch at  
(916) 372-3375

For more information regarding the state's policies on Storm Water Pollution please visit their website at  
[www.calepa.ca.gov](http://www.calepa.ca.gov) and visit the Storm Water page.

For specific questions you can visit our website at  
[www.cityofwestsacramento.org/stormwater](http://www.cityofwestsacramento.org/stormwater) or contact our Environmental Services Division at  
(916) 617-4590

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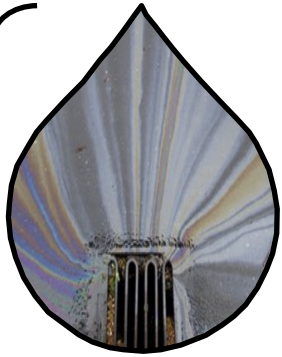
The logo for the City of West Sacramento, featuring a stylized yellow bridge structure with the text 'CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO' in yellow and black.

# General Guidelines

## Storm Water Pollution Prevention in the City of West Sacramento



## How to avoid Storm Water Pollution from... Driveways



When using water on your driveway, remember that the water goes unfiltered into a body of water.

### *When washing your car....*

- Use minimal amounts of biodegradable phosphate-free soap.
- Wash your car on a grass or gravel area.
- Empty remaining soapy water into a toilet or sink.
- Use a commercial car wash

### *When cleaning your driveway....*

- Use absorbent like kitty litter or sand to soak up oil and antifreeze spills. Sweep up the mixture. Bag it and throw it in the garbage.
- Sweep sediment out of gutters and off of surrounding concrete and dispose of it in the trash
- Recycle used auto oil

## How to avoid Storm Water Pollution from... PAINT

- Brush out as much paint as possible before cleaning brushes
- Clean brushes, rollers and tools used in latex paint in the sink so that wastewater will be disposed of in the sanitary sewer rather than the storm drain.
- Use disposable brushes, rollers and trays with oil base paint



Waste materials from paint include leftover paint, used thinner, chips from scraping and cleanup water.

- Reuse paint thinner. Let particles settle out and pour off clear thinner for reuse
- Choose water based paints over more toxic oil based paints
- Use up all the paint before disposing of the can
- Properly dispose of leftover paint at local household hazardous waste facilities

## How to avoid Storm Water Pollution from... YARD MAINTENANCE

- Fertilize according to directions on fertilizer bags. Do not over-water after fertilizing.
- Follow the label when applying pesticides and herbicides and do not over-water following the application of chemicals or apply when it will rain
- Sweep debris off of driveways and sidewalks rather than (or at least before) hosing them off to prevent washing sediment and pollutants into the gutter and down storm drains.
- Dispose of pet waste in the garbage
- Place yard debris in your yard waste cart



Be aware of where you are raking or blowing yard debris while cleaning. This can end up in the sewer and can cause serious back-ups as well as contaminate waterways.