

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

Household Tips



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door



Do your part to prevent water pollution in our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.

Clean beaches and healthy creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean are important to Orange County. However, many common household activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful.

Litter, oil, chemicals and other substances that are left on your yard or driveway can be blown or washed into storm drains that flow to the ocean. Over-watering your lawn and washing your car can also flush materials into the storm

**REMEMBER THE
WATER IN YOUR
STORM DRAIN
IS NOT TREATED
BEFORE
IT ENTERS OUR
WATERWAYS**

drains. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated.

You would never pour soap, fertilizers or oil into the ocean, so don't let them enter streets, gutters or storm drains. Follow the easy tips in this brochure to help prevent water pollution.

**For more information,
please call the
Orange County Stormwater
Program at (714) 567-6363
or visit
www.ocwatersheds.com.**

**To report spills, call the
Orange County 24-Hour Water
Pollution Problem Reporting Hotline
at (714) 567-6363.**

For emergencies, call 911.

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution while performing everyday household activities. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representative or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



Pollution Prevention

Household Activities

- **Do not rinse spills with water!** Sweep outdoor spills and dispose of in the trash. For wet spills like oil, apply cat litter or another absorbent material, then sweep and bring to a household hazardous waste collection center (HHWCC).
- Securely cover trash cans.
- Take household hazardous waste to a household hazardous waste collection center.
- Store household hazardous waste in closed, labeled containers inside or under a cover.
- Do not hose down your driveway, sidewalk or patio. Sweep up debris and dispose of in trash.
- Always pick up after your pet. Flush waste down the toilet or dispose of in the trash.
- Bathe pets indoors or have them professionally groomed.

Household Hazardous Wastes include:

- ▲ Batteries
- ▲ Paint thinners, paint strippers and removers
- ▲ Adhesives
- ▲ Drain openers
- ▲ Oven cleaners
- ▲ Wood and metal cleaners and polishes
- ▲ Herbicides and pesticides
- ▲ Fungicides/wood preservatives
- ▲ Automotive fluids and products
- ▲ Grease and rust solvents
- ▲ Thermometers and other products containing mercury
- ▲ Fluorescent lamps
- ▲ Cathode ray tubes, e.g. TVs, computer monitors
- ▲ Pool and spa chemicals

Gardening Activities

- Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizers, (measure, do not estimate amounts) and do not use if rain is predicted within 48 hours.
- Water your lawn and garden by hand to control the amount of water you use. Set irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. If water flows off your yard and onto your driveway or sidewalk, your system is over-watering.
- Mulch clippings or leave them on the lawn. If necessary, dispose in a green waste container.
- Cultivate your garden often to control weeds.

Washing and Maintaining Your Car

- Take your car to a commercial car wash whenever possible.
- Choose soaps, cleaners, or detergents labeled “non-toxic,” “phosphate free” or “biodegradable.” Vegetable and citrus-based products are typically safest for the environment, **but even these should not be allowed into the storm drain.**
- Shake floor mats into a trash can or vacuum to clean.

- Do not use acid-based wheel cleaners and “hose off” engine degreasers at home. They can be used at a commercial facility, which can properly process the washwater.
- **Do not dump washwater onto your driveway, sidewalk, street, gutter or storm drain.** Excess washwater should be disposed of in the sanitary sewers (through a sink, or toilet) or onto an absorbent surface like your lawn.
- Use a nozzle to turn off water when not actively washing down automobile.
- Monitor vehicles for leaks and place pans under leaks. Keep your car well maintained to stop and prevent leaks.
- Use cat litter or other absorbents and sweep to remove any materials deposited by vehicles. Contain sweepings and dispose of at a HHWCC.
- Perform automobile repair and maintenance under a covered area and use drip pans or plastic sheeting to keep spills and waste material from reaching storm drains.
- **Never pour oil or antifreeze in the street, gutter or storm drains.** Recycle these substances at a service station, HHWCC, or used oil recycling center. For the nearest Used Oil Collection Center call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit www.1800CLEANUP.ORG.

For locations and hours of Household Hazardous Waste Collection Centers in Anaheim, Huntington Beach, Irvine and San Juan Capistrano, call (714)834-6752 or visit www.oilandfills.com.