

Did You Know?

Water pollution comes from streets, neighborhoods, yards, construction sites and parking lots. When rain water flows across these surfaces it picks up oil, detergents, pesticides, fertilizers, bacteria, yard and pet waste. All of these pollutants will end up in our waterways.

Storm Drains & Basins

Storm drains are separate from the sewer system. Unlike water in our sewer system, water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

Many neighborhoods have storm drain **basins** which are designed to hold storm water. As the basin fills, the storm water flows through pipes and ditches to other downstream basins, creeks or rivers. In dry weather a basin may be used as a park.

Everything that goes into a storm drain or basin flows directly into our creeks, rivers, groundwater, and the ocean, untreated.

MAKE ~ THE ~ CONNECTION

Where Does It Go?

Anything we use outside homes, vehicles and businesses, for example motor oil, paint, pesticides, fertilizers and cleaners, can be washed into storm drains as a result of rainfall (stormwater) or excessive water use.

The Ocean Begins On Your Street

Even though you may live miles from the ocean, you may be polluting water without knowing it. By following the simple guidelines in this brochure, you can help protect and improve the quality of our waterways.

**A Stormwater Guide for
Santa Barbara County**

Lawn & Garden

- Do not over-water.
- Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Use organic and less toxic alternatives when possible.
- Sweep driveways, patios & sidewalks rather than hosing them down.
- Consider installing a rain garden or rain barrel.
- Compost or recycle yard waste.
- Use drought tolerant landscape as much as possible.
- Take unwanted toxic products to your local collection center.



For more information on recycling, composting, and collection centers visit lessismore.org



Automotive

- Use commercial car washes or wash vehicle on an unpaved surface.
- Inspect for and fix leaks immediately.
- Recycle used motor oil and other fluids at your local collection center.

Home Activities

- Rinse paint brushes in the sink.
- Use dry clean-up methods for exterior spills.
- Divert down spouts into landscaped areas.
- Never dump anything down storm drains or in creeks.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste at your local collection center.

Pool Maintenance

- Pool and spa water must be dechlorinated prior to draining.
- Where available, drain to sanitary sewer system or to landscape.

Animal Care

- Always pick up after your pet.



- Direct runoff from livestock barns away from creeks or to vegetated areas.
- Do not over-graze.
- Properly compost manure or use curbside collection service.

For more information on these topics visit sbprojectcleanwater.org