

# THE HOMEOWNER'S GUIDE BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

*An introduction to the  
Stormwater Management Program*



## COMMON POLLUTANTS

### Home Maintenance

- Detergents
- Cleaners
- Solvents
- Oil and latex paint
- Swimming pool chemicals
- Outdoor trash and litter
- Lawn and garden
- Pet and animal waste
- Pesticides
- Clippings, leaves, and soil
- Fertilizer

### Automobile

- Oil and grease
- Radiator fluids
- Antifreeze
- Cleaning chemicals



## DID YOU KNOW?

Most people believe that the largest source of water pollution in urban areas comes from specific sources such as factories and sewage treatment plants. In fact, the largest sources of water pollution comes from city streets, neighborhoods, construction sites, and parking lots. This type of pollution is sometimes called “non-point source” pollution.



This pollution is spread to our water bodies and natural habitats as a result of run-off, either as a result of rainfall (stormwater) or excessive water use (urban).

*Reducing stormwater runoff prevents pollutions from contaminating our streams and natural habitats.*

## WHERE DOES IT GO?

Anything we use outside homes, vehicles and businesses—like motor oil, paint, pesticides, fertilizers and cleaners—can be blown or washed into storm drains. A little water from a garden hose or rain can also send materials into storm drains.



Storm drains are separate from our sanitary sewer systems; unlike water in our sanitary sewers (from sinks or toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our streams.



## THE EFFECT ON OUR ENVIRONMENT

Non-point source pollution can have a serious impact on water quality. Pollutants from the storm drain system can harm aquatic life in our streams and ocean as well as natural habitats, degrading the environment.

Stormwater management programs have been developed to educate and encourage the public to protect water quality, monitor runoff in the storm drain system and investigate illegal dumping.

Support from our Buellton and Solvang residents and businesses is needed to improve and protect the water quality and reduce urban runoff pollution. Proper use and disposal of materials will help stop pollution before it reaches the storm drain and our water bodies.

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT



## LANDSCAPING AND GARDENING

- Do not over-water. Water your lawn and garden by hand to control the amount of water you use or set irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. If water flows off your yard onto your driveway or sidewalk, your system is over-watering. 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 waste by composting, hauling it to a permitted landfill, or as green waste through the City's recycling program.
- Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizer, (measure, do not estimate amounts) and do not use if rain is predicted within 48 hours.
- Or avoid pesticide and fertilizer use and use organic methods for maintenance.

## HOUSEHOLD ACTIVITIES

Do not rinse spills with water. Use dry cleanup methods such as applying cat litter or another absorbent material, sweep and dispose of in the trash. Take items such as used or excess batteries, oven cleaners, automotive fluids, painting products and cathode ray tubes, like TV's and computer monitors to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection.



Do not hose down your driveways, sidewalk, or patio to the street, gutter or storm drain. Sweep up debris and dispose of it in the trash.



### TRASH

Place trash and litter that cannot be recycled in securely covered trash cans. Whenever possible, buy recycled products.

### POOL MAINTENANCE

Pool and spa water must be dechlorinated and free of excess acid, alkali, or color to be allowed in the street, gutter, or storm drain.

When it is not raining, drain dechlorinated pool and spa water directly into the sanitary sewer.



### PET CARE

Always pick up after your pet. Flush waste down the toilet or dispose of it in the trash. Pet waste, if left outdoors can wash into the street, gutter, or storm drain.

If possible, bathe your pets indoors. If you must bathe your pet outside, wash it on your lawn or another absorbent/permeable surface to keep the washwater from entering the street, gutter or storm drain.



## AUTOMOTIVE

Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash whenever possible. If you wash your vehicle at home, choose soaps, cleaners, or detergents labeled non-toxic, phosphate-free or biodegradable. Vegetable and citrus-based products are typically safest for the environment.

Do not allow washwater from vehicle washing to drain into the street, gutter, or storm drain. Excess washwater should be disposed of onto an absorbent surface like your lawn.

Monitor your vehicles for leaks and place a pan under leaks. And NEVER pour oil or antifreeze in the street, gutter or storm drain. Recycle these substances at a service station, a waste oil collection center, or used oil recycling center.



**City of Buellton**  
[www.CityofBuellton.com](http://www.CityofBuellton.com)

**City of Solvang**  
[www.CityofSolvang.com](http://www.CityofSolvang.com)



**Santa Barbara County—Project Clean Water**  
[www.SBProjectCleanWater.org](http://www.SBProjectCleanWater.org)

