

Landscaping, Gardening, and Pool Maintenance Best Management Practices



for the Construction Industry

Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

In San Mateo County, storm drains flow directly to local creeks, San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean with no treatment. Stormwater pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on our waterways and for the people who live near polluted streams or wetlands. Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, and fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment; landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers; and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour or spill into a street or storm drain.

All of the cities in San Mateo County have joined together with San Mateo County and the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG) to educate local residents and businesses and fight storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

Who should use this brochure?

Landscapers
Gardeners
Swimming pool/spa service and repair workers

Storm Drain Pollution from Landscaping and Swimming Pool Maintenance

Many landscaping activities expose soils and increase the likelihood that earth and garden chemicals will run off into the storm drains during irrigation or when it rains. Swimming pool water containing chlorine and copper-based algaecides should **never** be discharged to storm drains. These chemicals are toxic to aquatic life.

General contractors
Home builders
Developers

What Can You Do?

General Business Practices

- ◆ Protect stockpiles and landscaping materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- ◆ Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals indoors or in a shed or storage cabinet.
- ◆ Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- ◆ Use temporary check dams or ditches to divert runoff away from storm drains.
- ◆ Protect storm drain inlets with hay bales, berms, filter mats or other inlet protection measures.
- ◆ **Revegetation is an excellent form of erosion control for any site.**

Landscaping/Garden Maintenance

- ◆ Use up pesticides and follow label directions. Rinse containers, and use rinsewater as product. Dispose of rinsed containers in the trash.
- ◆ Dispose of unused pesticides as hazardous waste.
- ◆ Collect lawn and garden clippings, pruning waste, and tree trimmings. Chip if necessary, and compost.

- ◆ Do not place yard waste in gutters. In communities with curbside yard waste recycling, leave clippings and pruning waste for pickup in approved bags or containers, or take to a landfill that composts yard waste.

- ◆ **Do not blow or rake leaves, etc. into the street.**

Pool/Fountain/Spa Maintenance

- ◆ Never discharge chlorinated pool or spa water to a street or storm drain.
- ◆ When emptying a pool or spa, let chlorine dissipate for 5 to 7 days. Then recycle water by draining it gradually onto a landscaped area, or drain the dechlorinated water to a storm drain.
- ◆ Chlorinated water may be discharged to the sanitary sewer (if allowed by the local sewage treatment authority) by running a hose to a utility sink or sewer pipe cleanout junction.
- ◆ **Do not use copper-based algaecides.** Control algae with chlorine or other alternatives to copper-based pool chemicals. **Copper is harmful to aquatic life and cannot be completely removed by the sewage treatment plant.**



San Mateo Countywide
Stormwater Pollution Prevention
Program (STOPPPP)
555 County Center
Redwood City, CA 94063

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