

The Pollution Solution

Several residential activities can result in water pollution. Among these activities are car washing and hosing off driveways and sidewalks. Both activities can waste water and result in excess runoff. Water conservation methods described in this pamphlet can prevent considerable amounts of runoff and conserve water. By taking your car to a commercial car wash and by sweeping driveways and sidewalks, you can further prevent the transport of pollutants to Orange County waterways. Here are some of the common pollutants for which you can be part of the solution:

1 Pesticides and Fertilizer

- Pollution:** The same pesticides that are designed to be toxic to pests can have an equally lethal impact on our marine life. The same fertilizer that promotes plant growth in lawns and gardens can also create nuisance algae blooms, which remove oxygen from the water and clog waterways when it decomposes.



- Solution:** Never use pesticides or fertilizer within 48 hours of an anticipated rainstorm. Use only as much as is directed on the label and keep it off driveways and sidewalks.

2 Dirt and Sediment

- Pollution:** Dirt or sediment can impede the flow of the stormwater and negatively impact stream habitat as it travels through waterways and deposits downstream. Pollutants can attach to sediment, which can then be transported through our waterways.

- Solution:** Protect dirt stockpiles by covering them with tarps or secure plastic sheets to prevent wind or rain from allowing dirt or sediment to enter the storm drain system.

3 Metals

- Pollution:** Metals and other toxins present in car wash water can harm important plankton, which forms the base of the aquatic food chain.

- Solution:** Take your car to a commercial car wash where the wash water is captured and treated at a local wastewater treatment plant.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that most of the pollution found in our waterways is not from a single source, but from a "non-point" source meaning the accumulation of pollution from residents and businesses throughout the community

4 Pet Waste

- Pollution:** Pet waste carries bacteria through our watersheds and eventually will be washed out to the ocean. This can pose a health risk to swimmers and surfers.

- Solution:** Pick up after your pets!

5 Trash and Debris

- Pollution:** Trash and debris can enter waterways by wind, littering and careless maintenance of trash receptacles. Street sweeping collects some of this trash; however, much of what isn't captured ends up in our storm drain system where it flows untreated out to the ocean.



- Solution:** Don't litter and make sure trash containers are properly covered. It is far more expensive to clean up the litter and trash that ends up in our waterways than it is to prevent it in the first place. Come out to one of Orange County's many locations for Coastal and Inner-Coastal Cleanup Day, which is held in September.

6 Motor Oil / Vehicle Fluids

- Pollution:** Oil and petroleum products from our vehicles are toxic to people, wildlife and plants.

- Solution:** Fix any leaks from your vehicle and keep the maintenance up on your car. Use absorbent material such as cat litter on oil spills, then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash. Recycle used motor oil at a local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.



A TEAM EFFORT

The Orange County Stormwater Program has teamed with the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) and the University of California Cooperative Extension Program (UCCE) to develop this pamphlet.

Low Impact Development (LID) and sustainable water use prevents water pollution and conserves water for drinking and reuse. Reducing your water use and the amount of water flowing from your home protects the environment and saves you money.

Thank you for making water protection a priority!

For more information, please visit www.ocwatersheds.com/publiced/

www.mwdoc.com

www.uccemg.com



To report a spill, call the Orange County 24-Hour Water Pollution Prevention Reporting Hotline at 1-877-89-SPILL \ (1-877-897-7455)

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Homeowners Guide for Sustainable Water Use

Low Impact Development, Water Conservation & Pollution Prevention



The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door



