

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

## Residential

### Home

- Locate and know how to operate your water shut-off valve
- In the event of sewer stoppages, breaks and overflows, or if a water pipe breaks on your property, turn off water as soon as possible to control the flow. Provide containment (soil berm, gravel and/or sand bags, etc.) that will prevent flow from discharging into the Storm Water Conveyance System.
- Immediately contact Caltrans or, if an emergency, call a plumbing professional for assistance, and then contact Caltrans.



### Garden

- Schedule large projects for dry weather. Store stockpiles under plastic tarps to protect them from wind and rain. Cover non-vegetated surfaces to prevent erosion. Use mulches in planter areas without ground cover to minimize sediment in runoff. Leave a vegetative barrier along the property boundary and interior watercourses, to act as a pollutant filter, where appropriate and feasible. Develop healthy soil; mow high, often, and with sharp blades; water deeply but not too often.
- Adjust irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs. Design timing and application methods of irrigation water to minimize the runoff of excess irrigation water into the storm water drainage system. Use drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems where appropriate and feasible.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers; read the labels and follow directions to avoid improper use; do not apply chemicals if it is windy or about to rain. Cultivate garden often to control weeds. Do not use herbicides. Try using organic or non-toxic fertilizer alternatives. Avoid applying chemical fertilizers near curbs, driveways, gutters, ditches, streams or waterbodies. Properly clean up and dispose of spills of gardening chemicals, fertilizers, or soils. If possible, return the spilled material to the container for future use. Store lawn and garden care products in closed, waterproof, labeled containers, in a covered area, or off-ground and under protective tarps. Take unwanted lawn or garden chemicals to a household hazardous waste collection facility.
- Dispose of green wastes as part of the household trash. If quantities are too large, arrange a pick up with the local waste hauler. After garden activities, do not sweep or blow clippings and waste into the street or gutter. Avoid hosing down the pavement. When possible, use a lawn mower that has a mulcher so that the grass clippings remain on the lawn. Compost materials in a designated area within the yard, take clippings to a landfill for composting, or recycle lawn clippings and greenery waste through local programs when available.

### Patio, Walkway, Driveway

- Use dry clean-up methods, such as a broom, mop or absorbent material for surface cleaning whenever possible. Do not sweep or blow trash or debris into the street or gutter.



- If water must be used, use it sparingly. Never discharge washwater into the street, a ditch, storm drain, or maintenance hole. Determine how you are going to capture the water and where you are going to discharge it before starting the wash job. Capture and collect the washwater and properly dispose of it (i.e., landscaped areas, private sewer system, sanitary sewer system).
- Avoid using cleaning products that contain hazardous substances that can create hazardous waste.

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## Garbage/Litter

- Arrange trash container areas so that drainage from adjoining roofs and pavement is diverted around the area(s) to avoid run-on. Provide roofs, awnings, or attached lids on all trash containers to minimize direct precipitation and prevent rainfall from entering containers.
- Use lined bins to reduce leaking of liquid waste. Do not locate trash storage area in immediate vicinity of storm drains.

## Hazardous Household Waste

- Use non-hazardous or less-hazardous products.
- Cleaning solvents and other household hazardous materials must be stored indoors or under cover, and in closed and labeled containers. Participate in household hazardous waste reuse and recycling by disposing of household hazardous waste including leftover paint at a local collection facility.
- If safe, contain, clean up, and properly dispose all household hazardous waste spills. If unsafe condition exists, call 911 to activate the proper response team.



## Pets

- Restrict animal access to creeks and streams, preferably by fencing. All pet wastes must be picked up and properly disposed of in the regular trash, flushed down a toilet, or composted as type and quantities dictate. While walking pets, carry bags, pooper-scooper, or equivalent to safely pick up pet wastes. Properly inoculate your pet in order to maintain their health and reduce the possibility of pathogens in pet wastes.
- Properly dispose of unused flea control products (shampoo, sprays, or collars). Bathe pets indoors and use less toxic shampoos. When possible, have pets professionally groomed.

## Auto

- If possible, use properly maintained off-site commercial washing and steam cleaning businesses. If washing/cleaning must occur on-site, wash vehicle on a pervious surface (e.g. lawns, vegetated or gravel areas) whenever possible. Use hose with nozzle that automatically turns off when left unattended. Shut off hose when not in use.



If possible, eliminate or reduce the amount of hazardous materials and waste by substituting non-hazardous or less hazardous material. Use non-caustic detergents instead of caustic cleaning for parts cleaning. Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents for washing vehicles. Prevent detergents from entering storm drains. Use as little detergent as possible. Dispose of excess detergent water into the sanitary sewer (via sink or toilet).

- Good housekeeping practices can minimize the risk of contamination from wash water discharges. Provide trash container in wash area. Sweep washing areas frequently to remove solid debris.
- Conduct auto repair activities at a commercial repair facility. Minor auto maintenance and repairs, if conducted at home, should be performed over impervious surfaces such as concrete, so spills and waste material can be readily cleaned up. Use drip pans, plastic sheeting, etc. to contain spills and waste material. Perform auto repair and maintenance activities under a covered area. Do not perform repair and maintenance activities during rain events. Do not wash parts or equipment in a parking lot, driveway or street. Monitor parked or stored vehicles and equipment for leaks and place pans under leaks to collect fluids for proper disposal or recycling.
- Recycle used oil and antifreeze by taking them to service stations and other recycling centers. Never pour oil in storm drains or other areas. Immediately clean up and contain any spills. Dispose of all waste and adsorbent materials properly. Store hazardous materials and wastes (including, but not limited to, fluids, solvents, parts containing fluids, batteries) indoors, under cover, or in watertight containers. Dispose of cleaning solvents at the designated hazardous waste center. Keep your liquid waste segregated. Do not buy fluids containing target pollutants (e.g., degreasers containing PERC).