

## Are you polluting San Diego Bay and the ocean without even knowing it?

Dumping wastes into the streets and in the storm drain system is one of the largest contributors of water pollution in the country – **and it is against the law**. Whether your home is two blocks or 20 miles from the bay, you can be a contributor to pollution in San Diego Bay.

Urban runoff is considered the biggest contributor to coastal water pollution. Polluted runoff results in beach closures and drinking water contamination, putting our health and the integrity of our natural resources at risk.



We need you to help keep San Diego's water clean and enjoyable! San Diego Bay contributes greatly to our local economy by helping sustain our maritime and recreational industries, while also providing a home to marine mammals, sea turtles and over 600 species of fish, birds, and invertebrates—many of which are rare or endangered.

Don't let polluted storm water and urban runoff affect you, your family, or your environment! Here is a helpful guide for protecting San Diegans and our precious coastal waters from water pollution.



Stormwater Program

Phone: 619-686-6254 • Fax: 619-686-6467

Email: [environmental@portofsandiego.org](mailto:environmental@portofsandiego.org)

<http://www.portofsandiego.org>



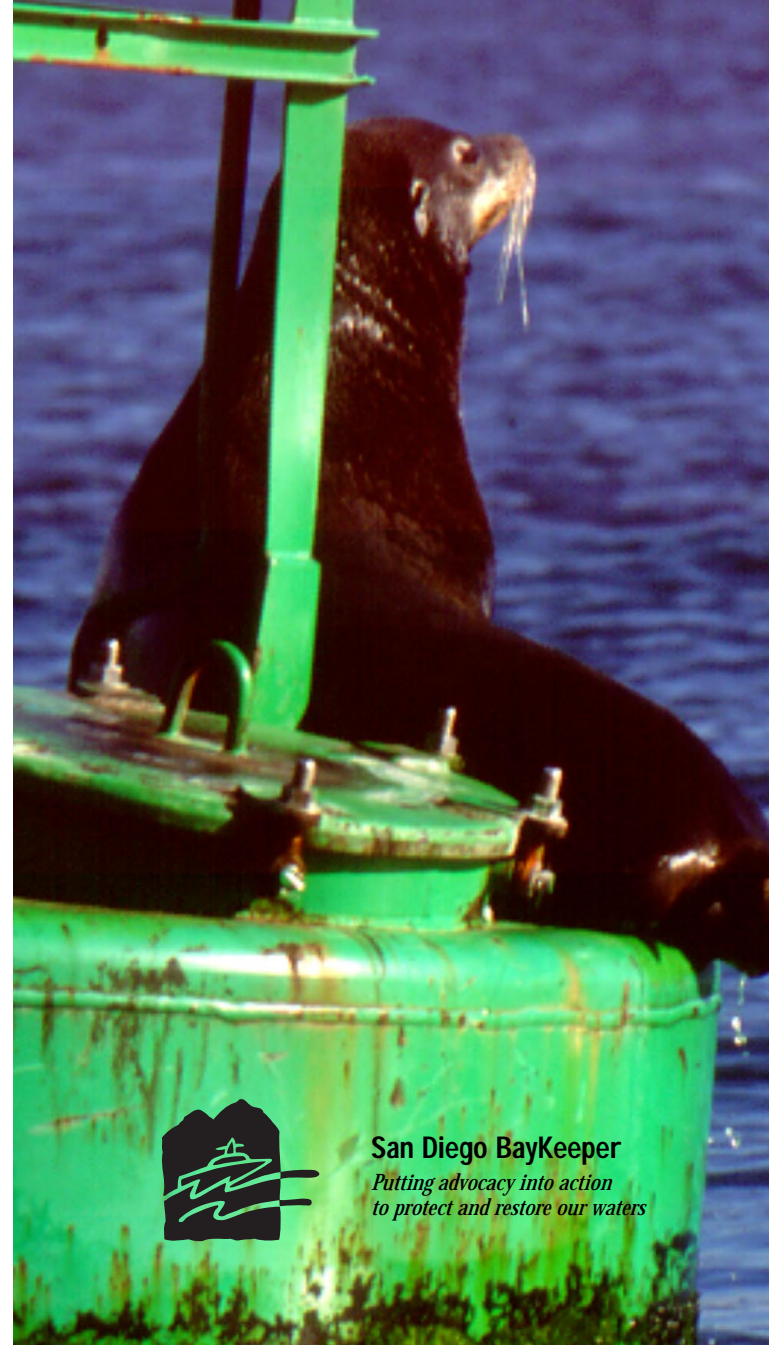
San Diego BayKeeper  
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# Preventing Stormwater Pollution

## Residential Guide



## Did you know that not all drains are created equal?



Only rainwater should flow into storm drains.

There is a big difference between the sewer system and the storm drain system. The **sewer system** is designed to remove wastewater from your house. The sewer system takes all wastewater from toilets, sinks, washing machines and showers to a wastewater treatment facility in San Diego. There, the water is **TREATED** before it is discharged into coastal waters.

The **storm drain system** is designed to prevent flooding in urban areas. Storm drains carry water from the streets to San Diego's bays and oceans. This includes rainwater from storms as well as urban runoff. Urban runoff is produced when people use more water than they need. When lawns are over-watered, driveways are hosed down, or cars are washed at home, the excess water enters the street picking up trash, animal waste, oil, chemicals, and other contaminants. This polluted runoff then enters **UNTREATED** into San Diego Bay.



San Diego BayKeeper

Putting advocacy into action  
to protect and restore our waters



San Diego BayKeeper

Phone: 619-758-7743 • Fax: 619-758-7740

Email: [sdbaykeeper@sdbaykeeper.org](mailto:sdbaykeeper@sdbaykeeper.org)

<http://www.sdbaykeeper.org>

Hotline: 1-877-4CACOAST

# What can you do to help?



# General Pollution Prevention

# Who to Contact

## At Home (bleach, paint, solvent, cleanser)

Many household products are TOXIC! Do not dump them down the storm drain or throw them in the trashcan.

- Buy products labeled "non-toxic." (Call 1-800-246-1233 for more information on non-toxic alternatives.)
- Use kitty litter to absorb hazardous spills.
- Use a Hazardous Waste collection facility for disposing your used toxic household products and containers. (Call 619-235-2111.)

## Pet Care (pet waste)

Animal wastes are full of bacteria, which can be washed into the storm drains and end up in our creeks, lagoons, and ocean. These bacteria are the primary cause of public beach closures.

- Carry a plastic bag when walking pets.
- Dispose of pet waste properly in the toilet or trash.

## Car Care (gas/oil, auto fluids, and soap)

Automobiles contain many substances that can harm the environment. Gasoline, oil, and other automotive fluids can be toxic to the fish and wildlife living downstream.

- Maintain your car regularly to prevent leaks.
- Place rags or drip pans beneath your vehicle if you have leaks or are doing engine work.
- Use water and cleaners sparingly and use biodegradable products when washing your car.
- Use a hose equipped with a shutoff nozzle to save water.
- Take your car to a car wash that recycles water.
- Recycle used antifreeze and motor oil. (Call 858-467-0903 to receive a Motor Oil Recycling Guide)

## On Your Street (trash, chemicals, debris)

These materials destroy fish nursery areas, disturb animal habitats, and cloud the water so that sunlight can not reach aquatic plants.

- Sweep up leaves and trash rather than hosing it into the street.
- Dispose of debris in your garbage can or curbside pickup.

## In Your Yard (fertilizers and pesticides)

Fertilizers and pesticides can harm aquatic life, destroy natural ecosystems and can also find their way into our drinking water. Improper application and inefficient irrigation practices are also a major cause of polluted urban runoff and a waste of water.

- Use alternative pest control methods such as beneficial insects and insecticidal soaps.
- Store fertilizers and pesticides in a safe place and dispose of unwanted materials at Hazardous Waste collection facilities.
- Use the recommended amounts to avoid leakage into storm drains
- Do not fertilize or spray pesticides if rain is predicted.
- Fill spray tanks over the lawn so plants can immediately absorb spillage; load dry fertilizer spreaders over the driveway and sweep up spills.
- Do not over-water your lawn!
- Make sure your irrigation system is functioning properly.
- Use a more frequent but less intensive watering pattern.
- Water during cooler times in the day.
- When possible, buy drought tolerant or native plants.



### Did You Know?

**Diazinon has been banned by the EPA due to its detrimental impacts. Please help the environment by discontinuing its use!**

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. YOU can help keep our ocean, creeks, lagoons, and the San Diego Bay clean by remembering the following tips:

- Don't dump it—Never dump anything into a storm drain.
- Teach your children about the importance of pollution prevention.
- Keep materials to be recycled separate from wastes.

- Sweep up trash instead of using a hose.
- Plant, Don't Pave—Planting ground cover can minimize runoff and it is much more attractive than concrete.
- Use non-toxic products for cleaning and gardening maintenance. Avoid using pesticides and herbicides by looking into alternative pest control methods ([www.pesticide.org](http://www.pesticide.org)).
- Minimize the wear and tear on your car! Carpool with co-workers or use public transportation. Use a bicycle for local shopping needs.

## Misuse of storm drains:

City of SD Stormwater Program (619) 235-1000  
Port of San Diego (619) 686-6254  
San Diego Bay Keeper (619) 758-7743  
(877) 4CA-COAST

## Dumping fuel/other hazardous substances in storm drains:

911

## Report a spill or discharge into San Diego Bay:

Coast Guard (619) 295-3121  
Harbor Police (619) 686-6272

## Recycling Hotline:

(800) 237-2583

## Non-Toxic Products:

(800) 246-1233

## Hazardous Waste Disposal:

County Hazardous Materials Duty Specialist (619) 338-2231

## Internet Information Resources:

Government: [www.thinkbluesd.org](http://www.thinkbluesd.org)  
[www.projectcleanwater.org](http://www.projectcleanwater.org)  
[www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9](http://www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9)

Pesticides: [www.panna.org](http://www.panna.org)



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