

HELP THEM... HELP OURSELVES

In San Diego, rain is almost always a welcome sight. It cleans the air, washes off the streets, and gives our cars, yards, and rooftops a good rinsing. Unfortunately, what washes off runs directly into our natural waterways, coastal lagoons, Mission Bay, San Diego Bay, and the ocean.

By the time rain travels through the storm drain system, it can become heavily polluted, making storm water runoff... **poison runoff!**



**REMEMBER: Storm drains
are NOT connected to
the sewage treatment plant!**

Urban runoff, also known as “nonpoint source pollution,” includes materials and chemicals which are washed into the storm drain system from a variety of sources.

According to the National Urban Runoff Pollution Study, 60% of the pollutants in our nation’s waterways come from nonpoint sources (not one specific source... from all of us!).

Nonpoint source pollution is ranked as the highest ecological risk impacting our region.

These toxins and bacteria pose a significant hazard to the birds, mammals, reptiles, fish, and other life forms at home in our waterways. It can make us sick too, as evidenced by the occasional need to close polluted beaches along San Diego’s coastline.



**IT'S SIMPLE,
If you wouldn't want
to swim in it—
don't let it get into
your storm drain!**





You are Part of the Solution!

While most of us don't contribute a lot to nonpoint source pollution, we all contribute a little. With awareness and education we are capable of stopping our personal contributions to this problem and eliminating the major threat to San Diego's splendid natural waterways.

The Most Common Nonpoint Source Pollutants:

OIL, FUEL, GREASE and ANTIFREEZE from cars leaked onto roads or carelessly dumped into a storm drain.

Metals found in **CAR EXHAUST, TIRES, and PAINT CHIPS.**

Solution!

Recycle used oil and other fluids.

- Almost 2 million gallons of motor oil are illegally dumped by San Diegans each year. . . one of our worst problems!

Maintain your car in good condition.

- Have it regularly inspected for leaks and keep it tuned.

PESTICIDES, HERBICIDES, and FERTILIZERS from lawns, landscaping areas, and roadsides.

Solution!

Read the labels of gardening supplies carefully.

- Use them sparingly.
- Investigate non-toxic alternatives in the garden.
- Take unwanted toxic products to local collection sites for safe disposal.

TOXIC HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS such as **PAINTS, SOLVENTS, and CLEANERS.**

Solution!

Buy household supplies labeled "non-toxic."

- Use and store toxic products carefully.
- Never put hazardous materials into the trash.
- When using water-based paint, clean brushes in the sink.
- For oil-based paints, re-use paint thinner, then dispose of used materials at a hazardous waste collection event.

NO DUMPING



I LIVE DOWNSTREAM

A Friendly Reminder

This message is to remind all of us that everything dumped into our storm drains ends up in our natural waterways. Help spread this message in your community. . . become involved in a stenciling project in your area.

Other Solutions!

Keep the gutter in front of your home free of leaves, grass clippings, and trash.

Clean up after your pet.

- Pick up waste and dispose of it into the toilet.

Get involved!

- If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem. Check your facts and educate your friends and neighbors. One more voice does make a difference!



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 Please recycle or give this to a friend.

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