

3. Rinses equipment onto an isolated dirt area, away from streets or creeks. Or places a wheelbarrow under the chute and/or other equipment to catch rinsewater, and wheels it to a dirt area for disposal.
4. Rinses exposed aggregate onto a dirt area.
5. Sweeps area clean at end of day.

### **Pool/Spa Maintenance**

#### **If you do the work yourself:**

- Control algae by regulating chlorine levels and by using a pool cover to block sunlight. DO NOT use copper-based algae control products.
- Always discharge pool or spa water to a sanitary sewer line cleanout. Never discharge pool or spa water to a creek, street, or storm drain.
- Dispose of filter rinsewater and backwash into soil, not the gutter, creek, or storm drain.

#### **If you hire someone:**

- Make sure your pool service contractor is not using copper products in your pool, and not disposing of filter backwash where it can run into a storm drain.
- Make sure acid-wash rinsewater is neutralized before it is pumped to the sewer line cleanout. Call your wastewater treatment plant for guidance.

### **Lawn & Garden Care and Pest Control**

See the pamphlets on “Landscaping & Gardening” and “Pest Control Tips” for more information...

- Make sure no leaves or blown or raked into the street or gutter. Collect yard waste for composting.

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures for specific types of maintenance activities.

Other pamphlets include:

- Landscaping & Gardening
- Painting & Application of Solvents and Adhesives
- Pest Control Tips
- Car Care for Do-It-Yourselfers



For more information about the stormwater pollution prevention program call: 831-645-4621

For stormwater educational materials, storm drain stenciling or school presentations call: 831-899-9957

## Spill Response Agencies

1. **Monterey County Hotline**  
(831) 394-6811
2. **County of Monterey Department of Environmental Health** (831) 755-4511
3. **California State Department of Fish & Game**  
1-888-DFG-CALTIP (334-2258)
4. **Public Works Departments:**  
Carmel By-The-Sea (831) 620-2010  
County of Monterey (831) 755-4800  
Del Rey Oaks (831) 394-8511  
Marina (831) 884-1212  
Monterey (831) 646-3920  
Pacific Grove (831) 648-5722  
Pebble Beach:  
Unincorporated County of Monterey (831) 755-4800  
Pebble Beach Company (831) 625-8402  
Sand City (831) 394-1386  
Seaside (831) 899-6825
5. **Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary**  
(831) 647-4201
6. **DIAL 911 (For Emergencies Only)**

## Waste Disposal

**Monterey Peninsula Waste Management District Recycling & Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program**  
831) 384-5313



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Informational material adapted from the City of Los Angeles Stormwater Management Division

# Home Maintenance Tips



**Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Homeowners and Landscapers**



Funded by the Monterey Regional Storm Water Management Program

## Who should use this brochure?

- Home owners
- Renters
- Home Maintenance/  
Remodeling Contractors

## Storm Drain Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us

Around the Monterey Bay, most storm drains flow directly to local creeks, streams, and the ocean sanctuary without treatment. Storm water pollution is a serious problem for wildlife dependent on clean water and for people who live near streams or the bay.

Some common sources of this pollution include spilled oil, fuel, fluids from vehicles and heavy equipment, construction debris, landscaping runoff containing pesticides or weed killers, and materials such as used motor oil, antifreeze, and paint products that people pour into a street or storm drain.

The *Stormwater & Education Alliance (SEA)* is involved in educating local residents and businesses to prevent storm drain pollution. We hope you will join us, by using the practices described in this pamphlet.

## What Can You Do?

### Car Washing & Repair

#### **If you do the work yourself:**

- Don't wash cars on a driveway or street where soapy water may flow to a storm drain. Wash on a lawn or unpaved surface. Dispose of leftover soapy water in a sink or toilet, not the street, driveway, or storm drain.
- If you change your own oil or antifreeze, recycle it! Never dump oil or any auto fluid onto the ground or into a storm drain or creek.
- Repair leaking vehicles promptly to help keep fluids off streets and out of storm drains. Soak up leaks and spills with an absorbent such as cat litter.

#### **If you hire someone:**

- Make sure mobile auto detailers have a permit obtained through MRWPCA and use spill containment aids when working on a street or driveway, and dispose of all wastewater to the sewer and not the storm drain.
- Be sure your auto service center recycles oil and antifreeze, and follows shop cleanup practices that prevent runoff to storm drains.

### Painting & Furniture Stripping

#### **If you do the work yourself:**

- Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter, storm drain, or creek.
- Clean latex paint from brushes and containers in a sink. Filter, settle, and reuse thinners and solvents for oil-based paints.
- Dispose of unusable paints and thinners, thinner residue, and paint strippers at a household hazardous waste collection site. Contact (831) 384-5313 for disposal hours in Marina.

- Empty, dry paint cans may go in household garbage, or they may be recycled by your city. Remove paint can lids before disposal.

#### **If you hire someone:**

- Make sure that painting contractors clean brushes and containers and dispose of paint residues properly - never in the street or storm drain.
- Professional painters must dispose of leftover paints and solvents as hazardous waste.
- Contractors should use plastic sheeting or a dropcloth to collect chips and dust from non-hazardous dry stripping and sand blasting. Then sweep up and dispose of debris as trash.

### Housecleaning & Window Washing

#### **If you do the work yourself:**

- Send dirty cleaning water down a sink or toilet, not into a street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Make sure outside trash can lids are tightly closed and recyclables are secured to prevent materials from blowing onto the ground.

#### **If you hire someone:**

- Make sure people you hire understand that storm drains flow to the creeks and Bay with no treatment- so they won't dump anything into the street, gutter, or storm drain.
- Make sure people you hire dispose of potentially toxic materials properly.
- When pressure washing, do not allow runoff to enter storm drains.
- Use non-toxic cleaners

### Carpet/Upholstery Cleaning

#### **If you do the work yourself:**

- Dispose of dirty cleaning solution down a sink.

#### **If you hire someone:**

- Ask professional carpet cleaners where they empty their tanks. Make sure they don't use the storm drain.

- Professionals should dispose of cleaning solutions down a sink or toilet, or return to their company for disposal to the sanitary sewer.

### Concrete, Masonry, and Asphalt Repair

#### **If you do the work yourself:**

- Check with your city (phone numbers on back of brochure) for permit requirements.
- Set up and operate small mixers on heavy tarps or dropcloths.
- Plan ahead, mix only as much concrete, mortar, or plaster as you need that day.
- Hose down mixers, tools, and trailers in a dirt area where rinse water won't run into a creek or gutter.
- Clean up with a broom, not a hose! Or wash fine particles onto a dirt area- not into a street or gutter.
- Apply driveway sealants when no rain is forecast. Sweep first to prepare. Handle sealants with care and follow label directions.

#### **If you hire someone:**

- Explain to your concrete contractor that there is a regional stormwater program. It is illegal to rinse trucks or equipment in the street or near storm drains because this endangers wildlife in our creeks and Bay. Make sure your concrete contractor has a permit:
  1. Establishes a cleanup area before starting work.
  2. Minimizes use of water in cleanup.