

Stormwater Pollution & You

Most people are surprised to learn that contaminated stormwater is a leading cause of water pollution in California. The good news is, there are steps you can take to ensure our waterbodies stay clean and safe for everyone to enjoy.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater is rain that runs off streets, parking lots, sidewalks, rooftops, and other impervious urban surfaces. It enters our municipal storm drain system and empties directly into our creeks, rivers, lakes, and ocean.

Common sources of pollution

Stormwater runoff mobilizes pollutants such as oil, trash, litter, animal waste, pesticides, and other hazardous materials and flows directly into our local bodies of water where people fish, wade, and swim. This can create unhealthy water conditions that can cause serious illness in both people and animals.

Protecting our water

Remember: *you* are the solution to stormwater pollution! By educating yourself and adopting the habits in this brochure, you can reduce the amount of harmful pollution that ends up in our local environment. Together, we can keep San Luis Obispo County's water clean and healthy for generations to come.

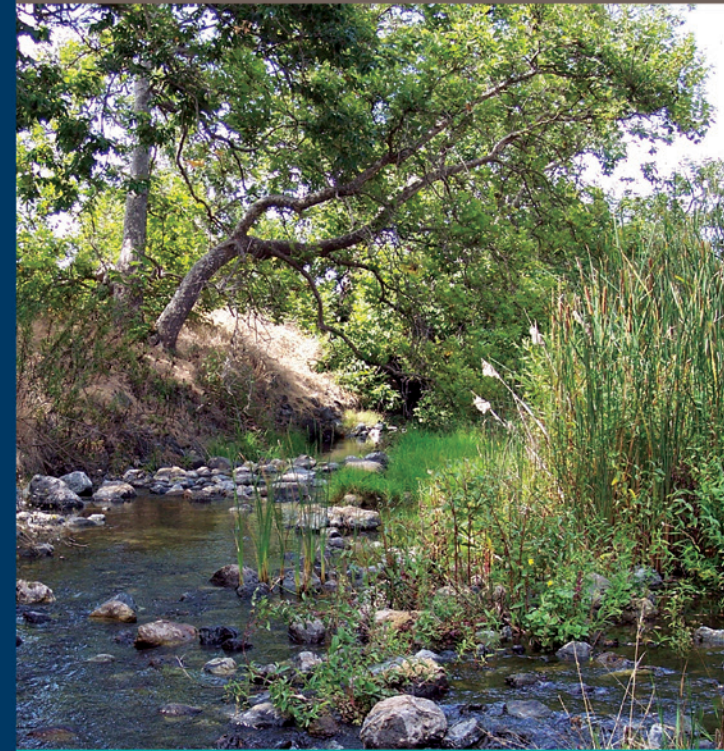
***You* are the solution to stormwater pollution.**



Report spills and stormwater pollution.
Call the County Pollution Prevention Hotline:
(805) 781-5544

A COMMUNITY GUIDE TO

Prevent Local Stormwater Pollution



COUNTY OF SAN LUIS OBISPO
Stormwater Program

976 Osos Street, #206
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408
stormwater@co.slo.ca.us



10 Healthy Habits To Prevent Local Stormwater Pollution

Pollutants and hazardous chemicals are washed into our storm drain system by the rain, and can contaminate our creeks, lakes, and ocean. Adopting these healthy habits in your household will help protect our local waters from pollution.

1 Only rain down the drain

Never pour liquid wastes into storm drains, gutters, or ditches. Sweep paved surfaces frequently to minimize the amount of dirt and debris that enters storm drains.

2 Choose less toxic products

Use slow-release and organic fertilizers on landscaping, and non-toxic traps for pest control. Choose enclosed baits instead of sprays to minimize the exposure of other wildlife. Encourage beneficial insects and wildlife!

3 Pick up after pets

Pet waste contains disease causing bacteria and parasites that can make people and other animals sick. Pick up your pet's waste to prevent it from contaminating our environment.



4 Keep a lid on your litter

Avoid overfilling waste bins and keep lids closed! Use tarps to secure loads whenever transporting goods in open-bed trucks.

5 Use fertilizers, pesticides & other chemicals sparingly

Use only the amount recommended on the label to do the job. Avoid applying products prior to stormy weather as unexpected heavy rain can wash chemicals into storm drains.

6 Maintain your motor

Fluid that leaks onto roads and driveways washes into our creeks and rivers during storms. If there's a stain or puddle in your parking spot, it's time for a repair.

7 Landscape smarter

Consider planting native trees, shrubs and wildflowers that require less irrigation, herbicides and fertilizers. Mulch or plant bare spots in your yard to minimize soil loss.

8 Redirect downspouts

Direct rain gutter downspouts away from driveways and sidewalks and into your garden.

9 Wash vehicles with care

Commercial carwash facilities can capture, treat and recycle most wash water. Avoid washing vehicles on your driveway or on the street, where untreated wash water will run in to storm drains.

10 Get involved in your community

Volunteer at a creek or beach clean up day, adopt a road or trail, or help staff local events. There are a wealth of opportunities to explore!

DID YOU KNOW? You can dispose up to 15 gallons or 125lbs of your Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) for FREE at any of the County's HHW facilities. Visit iwma.org to learn more!

