



Clean Water. Healthy Community.

The San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program (SMCWPPP) was established in 1990 to reduce the pollution carried by stormwater into local creeks, the San Francisco Bay, and the Pacific Ocean. The program is a partnership of the City/County Association of Governments (C/CAG), each incorporated city and town in the county, and the County of San Mateo, which share a common National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.

SMCWPPP is dedicated to raising awareness about water pollution in our creeks, the Bay and ocean; encouraging actions that prevent urban runoff pollution and protect our watershed.

Visit the San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution Prevention Program website at www.flowstobay.org, email PollutionPrevention@co.sanmateo.ca.us or call (650) 372-6200 for more information.

SMCWPPP Member Agencies are the cities and towns of: Atherton, Belmont, Brisbane, Burlingame, Colma, Daly City, East Palo Alto, Foster City, Half Moon Bay, Hillsborough, Menlo Park, Millbrae, Pacifica, Portola Valley, Redwood City, San Bruno, San Carlos, San Mateo, South San Francisco, Woodside; and the County of San Mateo.



SAN MATEO COUNTYWIDE
**Water Pollution
Prevention Program**

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Call to report:

Illegal dumping in stormdrains or creeks*
San Mateo Countywide Water Pollution
Prevention Program 650-372-6200
www.flowstobay.org/reportpollution

In case of emergencies or after business hours, please call 911 to report the incident. For all other types of illegal dumping, contact your local police department.

Polluting vehicles' license numbers 1 (800) EXHAUST
www.baaqmd.gov/exhaust/exhaust.htm

*Nothing besides water is allowed to be dumped or allowed to flow into a storm drain. This includes litter, wash waters, sewage, automotive fluids, construction materials, paint, sediment and/or silt, and food wastes.

For more information:

Recycling
County of San Mateo,
RecycleWorks (888) 442-2666
www.RecycleWorks.org

Carpooling
Rides for Bay Area Commuters 511
www.511.org

Disposal of hazardous household products
like paints, pesticides, solvents, cleaners, and
fluorescent light bulbs
San Mateo County Household Hazardous
Waste Program (650) 363-4718
www.smhealth.org/hhw

Less toxic methods
pest control, automobile care, other pollution
prevention ideas, and volunteer opportunities
www.FlowsToBay.org
or email PollutionPrevention@co.sanmateo.ca.us

SMCWPPP acknowledges the Santa Clara Valley Urban Runoff Pollution Prevention Program for developing and sharing the content and artwork of this brochure.

You are the Solution to Water Pollution



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You live in a watershed

A watershed is a land area that drains rain and other water into a creek, river, lake, wetland, bay or groundwater aquifer. Rain and irrigation from lawns and gardens wash pollutants off surfaces like streets, sidewalks, roofs, driveways and parking lots, into storm drains and creeks, and out to the Bay and ocean.

You may live miles away from the Bay and Pacific Ocean and still be polluting the waters

Water from your neighborhood enters the storm drain system and flows directly to local creeks, the Bay, and ocean **without any treatment**. It often is contaminated by pollutants that can be toxic to fish, wildlife, and people.

Residents and small businesses are the leading cause of local stormwater pollution, and have become the primary threat to our waterways. Pollutants that get into storm water because of our daily choices and activities can end up in our creeks, the Bay, and ocean. You may be polluting the local waterways without realizing it.

Storm drains carry water and pollutants directly to our local creeks, the Bay, and Pacific Ocean.

Never put anything into the gutter, street or storm drain. Help prevent pollutants from entering local storm drains.

Stormwater pollutants like these come from our everyday activities:

- Motor oil and auto fluids which leak from our vehicles
- Antifreeze, oil, paint or household cleaners dumped or rinsed into the gutter
- Soap and dirt from washing cars in the driveway or street
- Litter and grime that collects on parking lots and sidewalks
- Weed killers, fertilizers and pesticides that are washed off lawns
- Pet waste left on lawns, streets, in the gutter or on sidewalks
- Dirt, leaves and lawn clippings that clog storm drains and choke creeks with too much organic material, depriving them of vital oxygen
- Soil from construction or landscaping that erodes or blows into the street, often containing pesticides or other pollutants
- Pollutants in the air carried by rain through storm drains into our creeks



Preventing pollution is an everyday activity



Prevent stormwater pollution in San Mateo County by making small changes to your daily routine.

Chores

- Keep garbage and recycling cans tightly covered to prevent litter from being blown away or scattered by foraging animals.
- Clean leaves and trash out of your rain and street gutters.
- When using a cleaning company (e.g. carpet cleaners, window washers, power washers), be sure they dispose of wastewater in a utility sink, toilet, sanitary sewer cleanout, or a vegetated area.
- Dispose of pet waste in the garbage.



Lawn and Garden

- Use "green" gardening methods such as conserving water, planting native plants, protecting the soil and using non-toxic pest control methods: www.ourwaterourworld.org
- Adjust your sprinklers or irrigation systems to prevent over-watering, and prevent water from draining onto paved surfaces such as driveways and sidewalks.
- Use a broom, not a hose, to clean up outside.
- Compost leaves and yard clippings, or recycle them through your yard waste recycling program.
- Sweep dirt into landscaping to prevent it from entering storm drains.
- When using a gardening service, be sure they follow the guidelines listed above.



Home Improvement Projects

- Rinse latex paint tools in a sink, not outdoors.
- Drain your pool or spa into a sanitary sewer cleanout or drain to a vegetated area, not into a street or storm drain.
- Keep concrete, cement, dirt or mortar from blowing or flowing into the street or storm drain. Don't wash tools or dispose of excess materials in the gutter or storm drain.
- Provide landscaping next to sidewalks and driveways to collect runoff from paved surfaces.
- Use "green building" materials and practices, such as pervious paving, for your next project.



Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

- To clean up toxic spills like motor oil, paint and antifreeze, use an absorbent material. Clean up spills and dispose of soiled absorbent promptly.
- Go to www.smhealth.org/hhw or call Environmental Health at 650-372-6200 to learn about the proper disposal of these and other common household products requiring special care:
 - Fluorescent light bulbs
 - Pesticides
 - Cleaning chemicals and solvents
 - Batteries
 - Medicines



Automotive

- Regularly maintain your vehicle to prevent air-polluting exhaust and leaks of auto fluids. Fix leaks promptly.
- If you change your own oil, recycle it and the filter with your local curbside recycling pickup (call your waste hauler to confirm availability) or at a Used Oil Recycling Center www.Earth911.org
- Use a commercial car wash, or wash cars on a lawn or dirt surface. Empty your bucket of soapy water into a sink or toilet.
- Keep a trash bag in the car. Collect all trash and recycling and dispose of it properly.
- When hauling by truck, enclose your loads or cover with a tarp.



Protect and Enjoy Your Watershed

- If you see litter, pick it up and put it in a trash can.
- Buy fewer harsh or toxic cleaning chemicals. Store and dispose of them properly.
- Cars pollute air and water, so drive less.
- Ride a bike or walk along a creek. For trail information, visit www.eparks.net
- Mid-Peninsula Open Space District offers a variety of activities for people to engage with nature and experience the land: www.openspace.org
- Get involved! Adopt your local creek or beach: www.coastal.ca.gov. Find volunteer opportunities to help protect your watershed: www.FlowsToBay.org
- Create a legacy of pollution prevention. Teach your children about the importance of protecting the watershed for the health and survival of all living things. Show them how to prevent stormwater pollution.

