



A COMMUNITY GUIDE TO Prevent Local Stormwater Pollution

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. This can create unhealthy water conditions that can cause serious illness.

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 Carpinteria's water clean and healthy for generations to come.

10 Healthy Habits To Prevent Local Stormwater 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 the storm drains.

2 - Choose less toxic products

Visit www.OurWaterOurWorld.org for more information on eco-friendly pest management.

3 - Pick up after pets

Pet waste contains many disease-causing bacteria and parasite. 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 chemicals sparingly

Use only the amount recommended on the label. Do not use before stormy weather.

6 - Maintain your motor

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

7 - Landscape smarter

Plant native trees, shrubs, and wildflowers that require less maintenance. Mulch or plant in bare spots to minimize soil loss.

8 - Redirect downspouts

Direct rain gutter downspouts into your garden.

9 - Wash vehicles with care

Use commercial carwash facilities. If washing at home, make sure water goes into your lawn or other landscaped area - not into the street.

10 - Get involved in your community

Volunteer at different local events, like Creek Week, which is every September!

