



HOME AND GARDEN CARE ACTIVITIES

HOME CARE

Many hazardous materials may be used in and around residences during routine maintenance activities (such as: oils, paints, cleaners, bleaches, pesticides, glues, solvents, and other products). Improper or excessive use of these products can increase the potential for pollutants to be transported to the storm drain by runoff.

Think before leaving anything in the storm drain. The ocean starts at your front door.

Designated BMPs

- Painting equipment should not be cleaned in such a manner to allow runoff to reach the storm drain. Paint should not be allowed to enter the storm drain.
- Rinse off cement mixers and cement laden tools in a contained washout area that cannot flow to your lot drain. Dispose of dried waste concrete in household trash.
- If safe, contain, clean up, and properly dispose all household hazardous waste spills (see household hazardous waste factsheet). If an unsafe condition exists, residents should call 911 to activate the proper response team.
- Household hazardous materials must be stored indoors or under cover, and in closed and labeled containers.
- Household wash waters (e.g. washer machine effluent, mop water, etc.) may not be disposed of in a manner to allow them to reach the storm drain.
- Pool and spa water may be discharged to the storm drain if residual chlorine is less than 0.1 mg/L, the pH is between 6.5 and 8.5, and the water is free from any unusual coloration. (Call 714-834-6107 to obtain information on a pool drain permit).
- Pool filter media should not be allowed to enter the storm drain system.

Optional BMPs

- Increase education and outreach component of program to promote:
 - Purchasing hazardous products as needed and only in amounts required.

- Sharing of unused portions of hazardous chemicals with neighbors.
- Never disposing of hazardous materials by disposing in trash or in sanitary sewer. Dispose of hazardous materials at the proper hazardous waste center.
- Never dispose of hazardous materials into a septic system.
- Repair window and door screens and seal any cracks in walls
- Securely cover trashcans.

GARDEN CARE

Garden activities may contribute to storm sewer pollutant loads via soil erosion, green waste, fertilizer and pesticide use.

Plant and garden care activities such as landscape maintenance, fertilization, and pesticide application have the potential to discharge significant quantities of pollutants to the storm drain system. Nonvegetated surfaces may allow for significant erosion leading to high sediment loading to the storm sewer. Other pollutants such as pesticides may adsorb onto the soil particles and be carried via erosion to the storm sewer. Excess fertilizer and pesticide pollutants from over application may be carried to the storm sewer by dissolving in irrigation runoff water or rainwater. Green wastes contain organic matter, are suspended solids entrained in runoff, and may have adsorbed fertilizers and pesticides.

Excessive irrigation is often the most significant factor in home and garden care activities contributing to storm sewer pollutant loads. Pollutants may dissolve in irrigation water and carried to the storm sewer, or particles and materials coated with fertilizers and pesticides may be suspended in the irrigation flow and carried to the storm sewer.

Designated BMPs

- Irrigation systems must be properly adjusted to reflect seasonal water needs.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Do not apply chemicals if it is windy or about to rain.
- Spills of gardening chemicals, fertilizers, or soils on non-porous surfaces must be properly cleaned up and disposed.
- Lawn and garden care products and machinery must be stored in closed labeled containers, in covered areas, or off-ground and under protective tarps.
- Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed. Hazardous material may not be disposed of in the trash, or on any surface hydraulically linked to the storm sewer.

- Avoid unnecessary pesticide use. Do not apply pesticides during windy or precipitation conditions.

Optional BMPs

- Promote xeriscaping and use of drought and insect resistant landscaping.
- Keep wood and leaves away from house walls.
- Do not leave food (human or pet) outside overnight.
- Remove fruit and garden waste.
- Cultivate garden often to control weeds
- Encourage the use of integrated pest management (IPM). Planting pest repelling plants (e.g. Marigolds) around gardens to reduce the potential of pest invasion, hence reducing the need for pesticides. Pest eating insects (e.g. ladybugs) may be purchased and applied to gardens/landscaping to reduce the need for pesticides. The municipality should provide links to IPM sites and informational packets.
- Set mower height to remove no more than 1/3 total grass height, or 1 inch total, whichever ever is less, for each mowing.
- Compost landscaping waste to enrich topsoil.
- Require all nonvegetated surfaces to be covered in a manner to prevent erosion.
- Clean up garden debris. Remove weak or dying plants.