

FOLLOW THE

"3Cs"

Stormwater Pollution

Stormwater pollution is a problem that affects all of us. When it rains, water flows over our houses, streets, and yards, and carries pollutants into storm drains. Daily activities, such as over-watering your lawn or hosing down driveways, also create excess water that flows into the storm drains. The storm drain system is not connected to the sewer treatment system so any pollution in the streets and gutters flows **untreated** directly into our creeks, lakes, rivers and the ocean.

The City of San Diego's Stormwater Department

Maintains more than 39,000 storm drain structures, including over 900 miles of storm drain pipes and channels. These structures and associated activities protect water quality and prevent flooding in San Diego neighborhoods. It is illegal to allow any wastewater, potable water, or debris to flow into the storm drain system.

Use Best Management Practices to Stop Pollution

By adopting simple pollution prevention habits, you can help stop pollution before it gets into local waterways.

- Use dry clean-up methods for spills and outdoor cleaning. Vacuum, sweep, or use rags or dry absorbents. No hosing down.
- Properly label, store and dispose of hazardous wastes.
- Rake, sweep up and place all debris (dust, litter, clippings, sediment, etc.) into a trash can.
- Use a mop and bucket where water is needed, but prevent water from running into the storm drain system. Properly dispose of the waste water in the sanitary sewer (toilet or sink).

To report an illegal discharge, call the Stormwater Hotline at (619) 527-7500 or scan the QR code to use the Get it Done app at sandiego.gov/get-it-done.



Be proactive to prevent pollution when you perform your daily activities. It is easier to stop pollution than to clean it up once it has occurred. Before you get started, you should determine whether your project or activity will generate pollution. If you think there is a potential to create pollution, you should follow these general guidelines:

Utilize the “3Cs”

1 Contain your work area by isolating debris and pollutants. Containment could include blocking and/or filtering water or debris to prevent any potential flow or discharge from leaving the area and entering the storm drain (use sandbags, gravel bags, berms, etc.).



2 Control mechanisms are processes and tools that allow you to manage your activity (work) area. A control mechanism can be as simple as sectioning off your activity into smaller areas. Control also includes activities such as sweeping up debris, using a mop instead of a hose, or using a trigger nozzle instead of letting water run from a hose. Do not allow water to flow into the curb, gutter or storm drain inlet.



3 Capture all debris and wastewater. Once you have completed a job, be sure to clean up the area and properly dispose of pollutants, debris and water (sweep, mop, vacuum, wet vacuum, etc.).



Under the City of San Diego's Municipal Code §43.0301, Stormwater Management and Discharge Control Ordinance, it is illegal to discharge debris and materials into the stormwater conveyance system. Failure to prevent illegal discharges may lead to fines up to \$1,000.

To report storm drain pollution, call the Think Blue hotline at (619) 527-7500 or download and use the Get It Done app: sandiego.gov/get-it-done.