

Trash Cans & Dumpsters



Discarded waste – such as trash, food scraps and liquid waste – can be hazardous to our residents and environment should it leak out of trash cans or dumpsters and enter the storm drain system. These materials can carry harmful bacteria and can cause flooding by slowing or blocking the flow of rainwater into the storm drain system, including the curb gutter.

Proper Maintenance

You can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the following tips as part of your daily clean up and maintenance routine:

- ◆ Sweep up trash can and dumpster areas frequently. An area that's kept neat and clean encourages others to do the same.
- ◆ Keep trash can and dumpster lids closed at all times to keep rain water, landscape irrigation, rats and birds out.
- ◆ Construction dumpsters must be covered.
- ◆ Prevent leaks and spills by routinely checking dumpsters for holes or cracks. Call your trash disposal leasing company to replace leaking dumpsters and compactors.
- ◆ Never place liquids or leaky garbage bags into a trash can or dumpster.
- ◆ Use trash can liners to prevent the need for washing the can.
- ◆ When cleaning trash cans, direct wash water to landscaped areas. Collect materials onto a filter cloth and throw the filter cloth away.
- ◆ Keep trash cans and dumpsters away from storm drain inlets.



STORMWATER REGULATIONS

It is illegal to discharge pollutants from trash cans and dumpsters such as trash, food scraps or liquid waste into the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) (San Diego Municipal Code §43.0304). Penalties associated with these violations can be up to \$10,000 per day per incident.

Keep Trash Areas Clean

Bacterial contamination generated from trash cans & dumpsters can be easily avoided by keeping disposal areas clean, covered and away from storm drain inlets. Disposal areas for trash and other wastes shall be cleaned as frequently as necessary to keep these areas free of loose trash, debris, liquids, powders and sediment.

- ◆ Use dry cleaning methods first (sweeping), as needed.
- ◆ If wet cleaning methods are absolutely necessary, all wash water shall be contained, captured and disposed of appropriately. See fact sheet on Cleaning Pavements and Spill Management for more information.

Grease Disposal

Cooking oil and grease shall not be discharged to the storm drain or sanitary sewer system. Options for disposing of cooking oil include pouring it into a non-recyclable package and disposing it into the trash once it has cooled. Small amounts of grease can be wiped off of cookware with disposable towels and discarded into the trash. For more information about recycling and disposing of cooking oil, visit:

sandiego.gov/mwwd/sewerspill/grease/index.shtml

or call the Household Hazardous Materials Program at (858) 694-7000.

Hazardous Waste Disposal

Liquid waste, hazardous waste, medical waste, universal waste and other items prohibited by current regulations shall not be placed in solid waste dumpsters. These materials can be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility located at the Miramar Landfill entrance. To make an appointment to drop off the pollutants or for more information about proper hazardous waste disposal, call the Household Hazardous Materials Program at (858) 694-7000.

Keep Pollutants Out of Storm Drains

Many people think that when water flows into a storm drain it is treated, but the storm drain system and the sanitary sewer system are not connected. Everything that enters storm drains flows untreated directly into our creeks, rivers, bays, beaches and, ultimately, the ocean. Stormwater often contains pollutants - including chemicals, trash and vehicle fluids - all of which contaminate our beaches and harm fish and wildlife.

Whether at home or work, you can help reduce pollution and improve water quality by using the above Best Management Practices as part of your daily cleaning and maintenance routine.

