

Be a Watershed Steward

Be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

Water that runs over yards and streets, from rain, irrigation leaks, or cleaning, can wash pollutants into storm drains. Storm drains lead directly to streams and the ocean without any treatment. **But you can make a difference...**

Attend a four-class series to learn how to be a Steward of your Watershed and create your own community project. Help stop pollution from reaching our rivers and ocean. Serve your community and help the environment at the same time!

POSSIBLE PROJECTS	Neighborhood Cleanup	Sustainable Landscapes	Pollution Observation	Educational Events	Scoop the Poop
	Removes trash that could harm wildlife and add bacteria to the water, and makes the area look nicer.	Gardens that slow and capture rain from rooftops; higher flows wash pollutants into storm drains and then into streams and bays.	Get exercise and canvas your neighborhood for water leaks or sources of storm water pollutants.	Host a neighborhood block party or go door-to-door to share how to prevent storm water pollution.	Pet waste leaches nutrients and bacteria into the water; pass out bags and let people know how important it is to scoop the poop.

SOURCES OF STORM WATER POLLUTION

Many types of pollution are harmful to humans, wildlife, or the environment:



TRASH:

Wildlife can die after eating trash or becoming tangled in it. Trash can also carry bacteria or viruses that are washed into the water.



BACTERIA: Food waste, trash, and pet waste can contain bacteria, viruses, and parasites that can make people sick when they swim in contaminated water.



SEDIMENT:

Loose dirt, silt, or sand can cloud streams, killing aquatic plants and fish.



HEAVY METALS: Car parts, batteries, and rusty metal can leach lead, zinc, and other heavy metals into the water.



NUTRIENTS:

Overusing fertilizers can cause algae blooms, also known as "red tides," that kill fish. Some types of algae blooms are toxic to humans and wildlife.

What can you do to help keep our streams and bays clean?

- ✓ Keep trash contained by keeping lids on your trash cans or bagging trash.
- ✓ Follow fertilizer instructions or switch to organic fertilizers such as compost or worm tea.
- ✓ Scoop your pet's poop.
- ✓ Take your car to a car wash or auto mechanic for cleaning and servicing so wash water and fluids are disposed of correctly. Cover rusty metals or batteries.
- ✓ Stabilize slopes or bare dirt with rocks, gravel, or plants.



Learn more about San Diego regional water quality at: www.ThinkBlueSDRegion.org & www.ProjectCleanWater.org.