Vehicle Repair and Washing

For more information,
call the City's Environmental
Compliance Inspectors at 420-6050
or the Environmental Projects Analyst
at 420-5160.





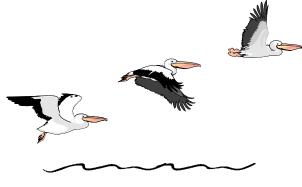
Pollution Prevention Tips

City of Santa Cruz 809 Center Street, Room 201 Santa Cruz, CA 95060 831-420-5160



Printed on Recycled Paper





Only Rain Down the Drain

Storm drains are designed to carry only rainwater. Therefore, they flow directly to local creeks, the San Lorenzo River, and into Monterey Bay without receiving any type of treatment. Storm drains are separate from the City's sanitary sewer system, which treats wastewater from your sink, toilet, and other indoor drains.

Whether you live right next to the ocean or not, polluted runoff from your home will eventually reach Monterey Bay through the storm drains or the nearest creek.

Even if polluted runoff doesn't immediately reach the storm drain or the water evaporates, the problem isn't gone. Pollutants still remain on the pavement and will be washed into the storm drain the next time it rains.

Storm water pollution is toxic to fish and other wildlife, and it degrades our beaches and ocean. The tips in this brochure will help you reduce pollution from your home activities and protect our environment.

Taking Care of Your Vehicle and the Environment

Home Auto Repair

Keep your car maintained to prevent leaks of oil, antifreeze, and other fluids. Check your car regularly for leaks!

- Fix leaks as soon as possible!

 Leaks and drips of oil and other automotive fluids end up in our driveways, streets, and parking lots.

 When it rains, these pollutants are washed off into the nearest storm drain—which flows directly to the nearest creek, San Lorenzo River or Monterey Bay.
- When working on your car, use drip pans to catch drips and spills.
- Clean up drips and spills immediately using dry absorbents, such as rags or kitty litter.
- Don't drain or pour oil, antifreeze, radiator rinse water, or any other automotive fluids into the street or a storm drain. These fluids are toxic to aquatic life. Instead, recycle used motor oil, oil filters, and antifreeze.





- The City picks up waste motor oil and oil filters as part of the curbside recycling collection program. If you need an oil container or if you have any questions, please call the City of Santa Cruz Customer Service Department at 420-5220. For antifreeze disposal, call the County's Household Hazardous Waste Facility at 454-2606.
- Do not use engine, brake, or wheel cleaners in areas where these products or rinse waters will flow to a street or storm drain. In fact, it is better to wipe these products off with a rag or paper towel instead of rinsing with water.
- Take your vehicle to a repair shop that uses environmentally sound practices.

Vehicle Washing

Even biodegradable soap is toxic to many types of aquatic life. The term "biodegradable" doesn't mean that something is safe for plants and animals—it just means that the substance will break down at some time in the future.

- Use minimal amounts of soap and water when washing your car or truck.
- Wash your vehicle in an area that does not drain into the street or a storm drain. For example, wash your car on a gravel driveway, a dirt or grassy area, or on pavement that slopes towards dirt.
- After washing, pour the bucket of soapy water into a sink—not the street or gutter.
- Wash your vehicle at a commercial car wash that recycles water.

Pollution prevention can be easy—most of the time it only involves making small changes in the way you do things around the house and in your yard.