Storm Drains vs. Sanitary Sewers

Storm drains and sanitary sewers have two distinct functions. It's important to understand the difference.

Storm drains collect and transport runoff from rainfall. Typically they are the drains found in streets and in parking lots. **Pollutants are not removed** from stormwater before it is discharged into streams and rivers. Everything that goes down storm drains ultimately flows to the Sacramento River, Deep Water Ship Channel or the Yolo By-Pass and eventually to the ocean.

Sanitary sewers collect wastewater from indoor plumbing including toilets, showers, sinks, washing machines and floor drains. Wastewater flows to community sewer systems or individual septic systems for treatment. For more information call Sacramento Regional County Sanitation District at (916) 876-6064.

Need info about solid waste disposal or hazardous waste drop-off days?

Refuse and Recycling
(916) 617-4590 or
www.cityofwestsacramento.org

City of West Sacramento, Environmental Services
1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, CA 95615
(916) 617-4850 www.cityofwestsacramento.org

CITY OF WEST SACRAMENTO

You are the solution… to eliminating storm water pollution

City of West Sacramento

Guide to Storm Water Pollution Prevention

What You Can Do To Help Prevent Storm Water Pollution…

Concrete

Before starting a job, determine the proper disposal methods for liquid and solid materials (concrete, grout, stucco, mortar).

- Don't dispose of liquid waste in the trash.
- Haul large amounts of solid waste to the landfill.
- Put small amounts of excess dry concrete, grout, mortar and stucco in the trash.
- Wash out equipment in a heavy plastic lined contained area or into a leak-proof container so that wash water can evaporate.
- Keep sediment out of the storm drain by placing barriers to capture runoff from exposed aggregate, saw cutting, coring or mortaring.
- Set up a wash area for equipment. Let water evaporate in a leak-proof area, then throw away the dried sediment.
- Sweep sediment out of gutters and off of surrounding concrete and dispose of it in the trash.
- Make sure contractors follow correct disposal procedures.

Pollutants discharged into storm drains contaminate waterways and are harmful to wildlife…

Paint

Waste materials from paint include leftover paint, used thinner, chips from scraping and cleanup water. **Never dispose of leftover paint or solvents in the trash, storm drain, sanitary sewer, or in a septic tank.**

- Brush out as much paint as possible before cleaning brushes.
- Clean brushes, rollers and tools used in latex paint in the sink so that wastewater will be disposed of in the sanitary sewer rather than the storm drain. **Do not wash brushes and tools in the gutter.**
- Apply leftover paint to a piece of wood that can be discarded, let it dry then dispose of it in the trash
- Use disposable brushes, rollers and trays with oil base paint.
- Reuse paint thinner. Let particles settle out and pour off clear thinner for reuse.

To report illegal dumping of hazardous materials call

916-617-4850

You can help prevent further pollution of waterways by following the correct procedures for disposing of pollutants…

Yard Maintenance

- Fertilize according to directions on fertilizer bags. Do not over-water after fertilizing.
- Follow the label when applying pesticides and herbicides and do not over-water following the application of chemicals.
- Sweep debris off of driveways and sidewalks rather than (or at least before) hosing them off to prevent washing sediment and pollutants into the gutter and down storm drains.
- Use kitty litter to clean up chemical or automotive fluid leaks and spills.
- Recycle used motor oil.
- Dispose of pet waste in the garbage.
- Keep yard waste out of the gutter

Before you pour anything on the ground or street, down a gutter or storm drain, STOP and THINK about where it will end up!