

Protect Your Water



It's just beneath your feet.

Tulare County Clean Storm Water Program

Water is the most vital resource in the Valley. If you think about it, water has an effect on everything we do in our day-to-day lives. From keeping our lawns green, to washing our dishes, we depend on water. Water plays an important role throughout our community.

For Agriculture ...

Water is delivered through a network of canals that is managed by individual water districts. Water from rivers flows through our community – providing water for food that feeds a nation.

For Industry ...

Businesses in our community depend on clean water for food processing, manufacturing, health care and other related industries. A clean and reliable water source is necessary to support a healthy economy.

For Home ...

Every day we need clean water for drinking and bathing. Our communities depend on water that is supplied primarily from groundwater. Protecting groundwater is essential to protecting public health.

For Wildlife ...

Our urban environment needs clean water in streams, lakes and ponds to provide nesting habitat for birds and other wildlife.

How Can You Help?

We're all responsible for keeping our water clean – for the future of the Valley, our communities and our children. And it starts at home.

By doing a few simple things, you can help protect the water beneath our feet. Look inside to find out what you can do.

Bag, seal and throw away pet waste – it keeps runoff and streets clean.



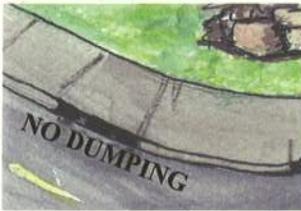
Put litter in trash cans. It keeps our storm drains and community clean.

Carpool to reduce air pollution, so it also helps reduce water pollution.

Set sprinkler timers to reduce contamination of runoff water from pesticides and fertilizers and help maintain a clean water supply. Use a shutoff nozzle to avoid unnecessary runoff.



Volunteer to help label storm drains with "No Dumping!" signs.



Recycle waste to keep litter off our streets and ease the strain on our landfills.

Instead of hosing, sweep driveways and sidewalks. This prevents storm water pollution and conserves water.



Take unused paint, pesticides, fertilizers and other hazardous items to a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off center. For information, call 733-6441.

How Does Storm Water Become Polluted?

When it rains, storm water flows across driveways, streets and lawns. As it flows, it can pick up pollutants such as oil, pesticides, cigarette butts and trash. This runoff carries these pollutants through the storm drain system. The pollutants then can affect wildlife habitats, outdoor recreation and our water supply.

Even when it's not raining, water from sprinklers, car washing, pool draining and other sources can carry pollutants into the storm drain system.



Rain gathers oil and other toxic fluids from leaky cars.

Runoff collects litter and yard waste.



Rain turns air pollution into storm water pollution.

Runoff picks up detergent and grime from car washing.



Overusing pesticides means money and pollutants down the drain. (The storm drain, that is!)

Overwatering creates runoff that can carry fertilizers and pesticides into the storm drain system.

It's up to us!

We need clean water today and for future generations.
Preventing storm water pollution is important and will help
keep our communities clean.



Accidental spills

Cover a hazardous material spill (such as used motor oil or antifreeze) with kitty litter, then sweep it up and take it to a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off center. Never hose spills into the gutter.

Car Fluids

Inspect your car regularly to prevent and repair leaks. Don't dump motor oil or antifreeze down storm drains. Repair leaks immediately.

Paint

Paint keeps our homes looking beautiful, but it has an ugly effect on our water. Never wash paint down the gutter! Rinse water-based paintbrushes in a bucket of water.

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Where Does the Storm Water Go?

Rain and excess water from your home flow right to storm drains. This water flows down streets, through gutters, into pipes, to ponding basins, canals, creeks and rivers.

In these basins and waterways, runoff seeps through the soil and into groundwater – our drinking water supply. That's why it's important to keep storm drains and runoff clean.

Loose Litter

Litter hurts our community. It contaminates our water resources and clogs storm drains – causing floods in our neighborhoods. Be sure to properly dispose of garbage, pet waste and cigarette butts! For more information on litter control, go to www.donttrashcalifornia.info.



Home and Garden

Maintaining our homes and gardens is necessary, but overusing chemicals is not. Buy household and garden products only in the amount needed and read and follow the label directions. Better yet, use alternative products. Avoid using lawn and garden products when rain is forecast! Take all unused products to a Household Hazardous Waste drop-off center. For information, call 733-6441.



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