



Landscape and Grounds Maintenance

In response to recent Federal and State water quality regulations and requirements, municipalities in Contra Costa County have joined to form the Contra Costa Clean Water Program (CCCWP).

The CCCWP consists of the Municipalities of Antioch, Brentwood, Clayton, Concord, Danville, El Cerrito, Hercules, Lafayette, Martinez, Moraga, Oakley, Orinda, Pinole, Pittsburg, Pleasant Hill, Richmond, San Pablo, San Ramon, Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County and Contra Costa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District.

The Goal of the CCCWP

is to control discharges of pollutants to municipal storm drain systems (and local creeks, the San Francisco Bay and Delta). The CCCWP encourages using Best Management Practices to effectively eliminate illegal discharges and connections.

The Storm Drain System was built to collect and transport rain to prevent flooding in urban areas. Anything that flows or is discharged into the storm drain system goes directly into local creeks, the San Francisco Bay or Delta without any treatment.

The Sanitary Sewer System collects and transports sanitary wastes from interior building plumbing systems to the wastewater treatment plant where the wastewater is treated.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) are methods and practices such as good housekeeping, spill prevention, or treatment measures to prevent or minimize pollutant discharges to municipal storm drain systems.

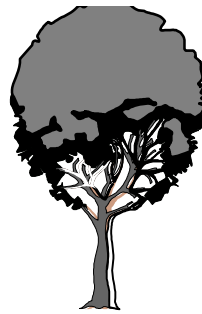
Illegal Discharges or Illicit Connections discharge non-storm water to municipal storm drain systems and contribute to water pollution.

Urban Runoff is rain and any other water that passes through and out of developed areas (streets, parking lots, roof tops, etc.) into the storm drain system and eventually to creeks and other waters.



Keeping pollutants out of our storm drain system protects our local creeks, reservoirs, San Francisco Bay and the Delta. Materials swept, blown, or washed into the storm drains end up in these open waters where they degrade water quality and harm aquatic life.

In addition to reviewing their own practices, municipalities participating in the Contra Costa Clean Water Program (CCCWP) have instituted a public education campaign and inspection program. Inspectors work with contractors and businesses to identify and control potential discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system. *Business and facility owners are responsible for their contractors' practices.*



Landscape and grounds maintenance activities are potential sources of stormwater pollution. Pollutants such as leaves, clippings, and dirt left on paved areas can eventually be washed or swept into the storm drains. As a result, these pollutants can cause local flooding by clogging drains, and may reduce the aesthetic and recreational

values of nearby creeks and the San Francisco Bay. Organic matter such as lawn clippings and leaves decay in the water, consuming oxygen and killing plants and animals. Fertilizers are major sources of nutrients. Added nutrients may lead to excess algae growth, a nuisance that may impact wildlife habitat. Additionally, pesticide residues that are washed or blown into storm drains may harm wildlife and degrade water quality.

The cumulative effects of stormwater pollution include reduced water quality and increased toxicity to fish and other organisms. All landscape and grounds maintenance crews can apply common sense practices to minimize or eliminate their contribution to stormwater pollution. Some such practices are identified on the reverse side of this page.

If you need additional information concerning stormwater pollution and its prevention, contact your local program representatives at 1-888-BAY-WISE.

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Landscape Maintenance ☞ Practices To Protect Water Quality

The goal: *"Only rain in the storm drain."*

The objectives: *Keep pollutants from 1) contacting rain and 2) being dumped, blown, swept, washed, or poured into storm drains.*

Activities

Practices to Protect Water Quality*

Landscape Care
and Waste
Management

- Blow or rake leaves into a pile and contain for pickup or discard in garbage.
- **Do not allow leaves to collect in the gutter!**
- Sweep up any leaves and litter in the gutters, and any residue left on the street. Dispose of debris in the garbage.
- Collect yard waste for composting.
- Schedule excavation and grading projects for the dry weather season.
- Store stock piled materials inside a building, under a roof, or covered with a secured tarp or sheeting to prevent contact with rain.

Litter Control

- Pick up litter and other wastes regularly from outside areas including storm drain inlet grates.
- Use dry clean-up methods, such as sweeping, to preserve both water and water-quality.
- Never dispose of waste products in storm drain inlets.
- Ensure an adequate number of trash receptacles are accessible.

Irrigation

- Use water efficiently. Call Contra Costa Water District's Water Conservation Department at (925) 688-8000 for more information.
- Minimize irrigation runoff to the storm drain system as it may contain chemicals from municipal water treatment, pesticides, or fertilizers that can adversely affect wildlife.

Pesticides and
Fertilizers

- Choose disease-resistant plants that do well in your local area.
- Encourage beneficial insects with a variety of flowering plants.
- Limit pest preferred habitat (ivy, standing water, woodpiles, mulch) and breeding areas (animal waste, rotting fruit, debris).
- Contact U.C. Cooperative Extension for more information on Integrated Pest Management: (510) 670-5200.
- Minimize the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers to major problem areas.
- Read pesticide and fertilizer labels carefully. Apply as directed.
- Do not apply pesticides or fertilizers before rainstorms because they may be washed into the storm drain.
- Recycle or dispose of chemical wastes properly. For more information, call (510) 670-5543.

Equipment/
Vehicle
Maintenance

- Soak up leaks and spills with an absorbent. Dispose of absorbent properly.
- Maintain equipment and vehicles regularly. Check for and fix leaks. Use drip pans to collect leaks or spills during maintenance activities.
- Wash equipment/vehicles in an unpaved area or in a designated and/or covered area where the washwater is collected to be recycled or discharged to the sanitary sewer. Contact your local wastewater treatment agency before connecting to the sanitary sewer. **Do not let washwater reach the storm drain.**



* Hazardous materials must be stored and disposed of in accordance with federal, state, and local requirements.

REFERENCES:

California Municipal Best Management Practice Handbook, March 1993

ACCWP "Good Housekeeping Practices" flyer, February 1996

Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, "Home Maintenance Tips for a Cleaner Bay" (no date)