



STORM WATER PROGRAM

The City of Santa Cruz has initiated a storm water program aimed at reducing the amount of pollutants going to local storm drains from both businesses and residents. In fact, in April 1998, the City passed a Storm Water Ordinance that makes it illegal to cause polluting substances to enter a storm drain.

We have been called or directed to this address because of the following discharge or threatened discharge to the street, gutter, catch basin, or creek:

- ☐ discharge of vehicle fluids
- ☐ discharge of paint or thinners
- ☐ discharge of construction materials
- ☐ discharge of debris, litter, yard waste
- ☐ other:

Please help us stop this discharge and prevent its reoccurrence. Also, please do the following:

Future violations of the Municipal Code may result in enforcement actions including monetary penalties.

If you have any questions, please call a City Environmental Compliance Inspector at 420-6050.

Streets, Gutters, Catch Basins and Creeks

Streets, gutters, catch basins, and creeks are part of the storm drain system that carries rainwater to local creeks, the San Lorenzo River, and Monterey Bay. Storm drains do not flow to the local treatment plant, which treats wastewater from your sinks, toilets, and other indoor drains. Therefore, whether you live right next to the ocean or not, any pollutants discharged from your home to the street, gutter, or creek will eventually reach the bay and ocean without receiving any type of treatment at all!

Storm Water Pollution: How it Happens

Storm water pollution is caused by a variety of activities. For example, when people work on their cars or remodel their houses, vehicle fluids, paint, remodeling debris and cement may reach the street and nearby catch basins if precautions are not taken.

Remember, just because polluted runoff doesn't immediately reach the storm drain and the fluid even evaporates, the problem is not gone! The pollutants still remain on the pavement and will be washed into the nearest storm drain the next time it rains.

Further Information

For additional information on how to prevent pollution from your home, please contact a City Industrial Waste Inspector at (831) 420-6050.

**Help keep protect our creeks, river,
bay and coast!**



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