

Restaurants Can Help Keep our Waterways Clean



SIMPLE THINGS THAT MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE

What is urban runoff and storm water pollution, and what is the difference between them? Urban runoff is the water that flows off our yards, streets, parking lots, and driveways into the storm drains and eventually into our creeks, lagoons and the ocean during the dry season. Whether it is from sprinkler over spray, car washing or hosing down the driveway, everyone is a potential contributor to urban runoff. Whereas storm water pollution occurs during the rainy season, with runoff picking up pollutants from our streets and gutters that flows directly into our local waterways. In either case, whether by rain or by everyday activities, the water flows into the storm drains picking up pollutants like soil, motor oil, pesticides, fertilizers, pet wastes, and litter. All these contaminants end up in our waterways. Many people mistakenly think that the water entering our storm drains is cleaned or treated in some way. **The storm drain system and sewer system are separate.** Our storm drain system channels water, untreated, directly into our creeks, lagoons and the ocean. If our runoff water and storm water is contaminated, it will cause beach closures and postings. Urban runoff is a major source of water pollution. **Acting Water Wise Helps Keep Our Waterways Clean. Prevent Storm Water Pollution and Urban Runoff.**

A clean restaurant is important to all of us. However, many of the cleaning practices restaurants use will cause water pollution impairments once the water is allowed to leave your property. Cleaning practices that allow grease, food waste, trash and cleaning products to flow into the storm drain system contribute directly to the impairment of our creeks, lagoons and ocean. These practices can also make people sick in the ocean and cause beach closures. Every restaurant must contain all wastewater on their property.

PREVENTION:

Here are some simple suggestions to make your restaurant clean on the inside, as well as the outside, and help make our creeks, lagoons and ocean clean and healthy again.



- **Maintain your sewer lateral:** You are responsible for the maintenance of the sewer lateral up to the public right of way. Regular maintenance and service of your lateral and grease trap interceptor will make a big difference in helping to prevent sewer overflows to the storm drain system.
- **Storm Drain Inlets:** Locate and when possible cover storm drain inlets during the dry season (April –October). Check the storm drain inlets periodically and keep them clean and free of grease and trash.
- **Use a mop sink:** Indoor cleaning should be done using a mop sink or floor drain that is connected to the sewer system. It is illegal to pour dirty water out the back door and into the storm drain system.
- **Use a broom:** Frequently sweep or broom outside areas, including parking lots, outdoor eating areas, drive-thru areas and trash/grease bin areas.
- **High pressure washing** or hosing of parking lots and sidewalks must be contained, recaptured and disposed of into the sewer system.
- **Dumpsters:** Provide secondary containment for dumpsters and grease bins. Trash and grease may overflow their structures and a secondary structure such as an aluminum tray would capture the runoff.
- **Litter Free:** Keep the area around trash bins litter free. Customers and employees are more likely to use them when they are kept clean. Leaking trash and grease dumpsters need to be replaced and container lids kept closed to keep water out and litter in.
- **Provide overhead coverage** for all outdoor works areas such as grease bins, trash cans and chemical storage areas.
- **Train employees:** Create a storm drain pollution training program, which should include, pollution prevention techniques, spill response, hazardous material handling and storage. Management should explain the environmental, health and safety consequences of spills, as well as the benefits of good management and housekeeping practices. Provide the resources to get the job done and encourage participation through incentive programs such as awards and other forms of recognition.
- **Landscape:** Water efficiently as not to create excessive runoff. Minimize use of pesticides and fertilizers. Do not apply in wet weather.



Waterways
Clean



MINIMIZE WASTE

- Use non-disposable products such as cloth napkins, ceramic dishware and real silver ware. When using disposable products, use recycled paper products instead of styrofoam.
- Buy the least non-toxic products available. Look for "non-toxic," "non-petroleum based," "free of ammonia, phosphates, dye or perfume," or "readily biodegradable" on the label.
- Avoid chlorinated compounds, petroleum distillates, phenols and formaldehyde.
- Use water-based products.
- Use items made from recycled materials.

RECYCLE

- Recycle where you can, including: paper and cardboard; glass, aluminum and tin/steel cans; pallets; drums; oil and grease.
- Separate wastes by keeping recyclables in separate containers according to the type of material.

To report Illegal Dumping or for more information on preventing storm water pollution and urban run-off, please call the City of Encinitas Storm Drain Pollution Control and Dumping Hotline at (760) 633-2787. You can also visit the City of Encinitas Storm Water Service's home page at www.ci.encinitas.ca.us.

OTHER FACT SHEETS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST AT HOME AND AT WORK:

- **Yard & Garden Care** – Keeping Your Yard & Garden Beautiful and Our Waterways Clean
- **Construction / Developers** – Simple and Cost Effective Ways to Comply with Storm Water Regulations
- **Hiring a Handy Man** – Easy Instructions for the Homeowner
- **Automotive** – Simple Things to Keep Our Waterways Clean
- **Diazinon** - How it Affects Your Health, Your Family and the Environment

These fact sheets are available on the City of Encinitas' website at www.ci.encinitas.ca.us. Solana Recyclers, Inc. created the fact sheets. For more information about storm water/urban run-off pollution prevention, please contact us at (760) 436-7986 or info@beresourceful.org.

