

Clean beaches and healthy rivers, bays and ocean are important to Los Angeles County.

However, many landscape maintenance activities can lead to water pollution if you're not careful. Fertilizers, soil, plant clippings and other materials can be blown or washed into storm drains that flow to the ocean. Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.

You would never pour fertilizers, soil, grass or plant clippings directly into the ocean, so why would you let them enter the storm drains? Follow these easy tips in this brochure to help prevent water pollution.

**To Report a Spill, call
Lakewood City Hall at
(562) 866-9771**

**Remember, the ocean begins
at YOUR front door!**



STORM WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION: IT'S UP TO US!

Every day polluted urban runoff flows directly to the ocean through the storm drain system taking water and debris straight from the streets to the ocean.

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants (oil and other automobile fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet waste, pesticides and litter) creates storm water pollution.

A clean environment is important to all of us. Please be a part of the pollution solution!!

ENFORCEMENT

The City promptly responds to all complaints of illegal discharges to the storm drain system. Residents and businesses may be held responsible for violations and costs associated with the clean up, investigation, violations, fines or citations from the City, County, State and Federal regulatory agencies as well as any third party enforcement actions.

For more information or assistance, please call the City of Lakewood's Public Works Department (562) 866-9771 extension 2500.



City of Lakewood

**Best
Management
Practices**

*Landscaping
and Gardening*



For:
**Gardeners
Homeowners
Landscapers**

Reduce Runoff Pollution

Residents and businesses can contribute to storm water pollution through improper cleaning practices that allow grass, plant clippings, soil, water, leaves, trash and other pollutants to flow into the gutter and street. These ocean pollutants can clog catch basins, increase the risk of flooding on your street, while carrying garden chemicals into the ocean. As they decompose, they also use up absorbed oxygen that marine life need to survive.



Best Management Practices

Best Management Practices or BMPs are procedures that help prevent pollutants from entering the storm drains. Each of us can do our part to keep pollution out of the storm drains by incorporating these practices into your daily activities.

Landscape Installation

- Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.
- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Never stockpile dirt, sand or other materials that can enter into the street or in areas where they can enter the storm drain system.
- Sweep up dry spills immediately and dispose of the material in the trash.

- Divert runoff away from storm drains.
- Prevent erosion by mulching or planting fast growing annual and perennial grasses. These grasses will shield and bind the soil.
 - Plant California native or drought tolerant plants that require less water and fertilizer to thrive.

Garden and Landscape Maintenance

- Do not overwater. Water only areas intended not the street or sidewalk.
- Irrigate slowly and inspect the system for leaks, over spraying, over watering and runoff.
- Install irrigation systems equipped with rain sensors.
- Conserve water by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro spray systems, and mulch planting beds to retain moisture.
- Do not blow, rake or dispose of grass or leaves, in the street, parkways, gutter or storm drains.
- Place all landscaping waste in approved green waste containers for pick-up and disposal.
- Consider leaving your grass clippings on your lawn after mowing. Grasscycling helps reduce watering and fertilizer use.
- Use organic or nontoxic fertilizers.
- Follow label directions for the use and disposal of fertilizers.
- Do not apply fertilizers if rain is expected within 48 hours or if wind speeds are above 5 mph.

- Fertilizers should be worked into the soil rather than dumped onto the surface.
- If fertilizer is spilled on the pavement or sidewalk, sweep it up immediately and place it back in the container.
- If the spill is liquid, apply an absorbent material such as cat litter, and then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash.
- Store fertilizers and other chemicals in a dry covered area to prevent exposure that may result in the deterioration of containers and packaging.
- Attend a Los Angeles County Smart Gardening Workshop and learn about backyard composting, water-wise gardening, worm composting, and grasscycling.
- Purchase a discounted backyard compost bin or worm compost bin at the Smart Gardening Workshop.
- Visit www.smartgardening.com or visit www.CleanLA.com or call 1(888)CLEAN LA for Smart Gardening dates and locations.

