



## **Storm Water Quality**

There are many types of pollutants that can find their way into the City storm drain system, and from there, into our creeks and waterways. Some common pollutants found in storm drains include motor oil, yard clippings, fertilizers and pesticides, milky water from paint, soapy car wash water, eroded sediment from construction projects, and litter.

### **What is Storm Water Pollution?**

Storm water pollution refers to many types of harmful materials that are carried by water (rain water or wash water) through the storm drain system to creeks, to the Laguna de Santa Rosa, the Russian River and ultimately Pacific Ocean. Storm water is not treated in any way. While water we use in our homes and businesses drains to a treatment plant, storm water and anything else dumped or spilled outside flows into the storm drain system and directly to our waterways.

Storm water pollution has many sources. One of the most common is the illegal dumping or spilling of wastes directly into storm drains, like pouring used motor oil or paint directly into a storm drain. Pollutants also enter storm drains when it rains; rain runs off roofs, streets, parking lots, and other paved and impervious surfaces and flows into the nearest storm drain, picking up pollutants along the way. Rain, as well as waters from hoses and sprinklers, carries detergents from car washing as well as pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers to the storm drain. From the storm drain, water flows directly into the nearest waterway-garbage, toxins, and all.

### **Best Management Practices for Residents and Business**

For many activities, the potential for illicit discharges or ‘spills’ to the storm drain system can be prevented through “Best Management Practices” or BMPs. See below for information on what you can do as a resident or business person in Sebastopol to help keep our storm drain system and creeks and waterways free from pollution”

Residents  
Businesses

**Preventing Storm Water Pollution**  
**Storm Water Pollution Prevention is Everybody’s Business**

### **More Resources**

Here is a link to the City of Santa Rosa Storm Water Web Site which has many more useful resources outlining BMPs for a number of common activities, including:

- Construction projects
- Heavy Equipment & Earth-moving Activities
- Roadwork and Paving
- Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application
- General Construction & Site Supervision
- Home Repair & Remodeling
- Painting

<http://ci.santa-rosa.ca.us/departments/communitydev/brochures/Pages/default.aspx>