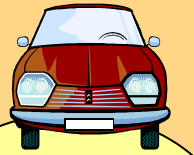
Maintaining your pool

You can help the environment by properly disposing of the water in a swimming pool, fountain and spa. Pool water contains chlorine, copper, and filter backwash that can harm aquatic life. For more information about proper disposal, see our pool water brochure.

Caring for your car

Washing your car in the driveway and/or allowing it to leak fluids sends harmful chemicals into the storm drain—*which is the same as dumping the chemicals directly into a creek or river!*



Did you know that a single quart of motor oil dumped down a storm drain can create a two-acre oil slick?

Picking up after your pets

Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that can impact the environment and human health. When it rains, pet waste left on lawns, trails and sidewalks washes into the storm drain system untreated, flowing directly into our local creeks and rivers.

Did you know that in Monterey, scientists found that sea otters were declining because they were infected with parasites traced to cat waste?

Here's what you can do:

- Dispose of sealed pet waste in the trash, not in green waste or recycling containers.
- Flush pet waste down the toilet.
- Never dump pet waste into a storm drain.
- Carry a plastic bag when walking your dog.

Preserving Creeks Today for Tomorrow

A guide to caring for waterways

Here's what you can do:

- Regularly check your vehicles for leaks and repair them.
- Take motor oil, antifreeze and other fluids to an automotive center or gas station with a recycling program or,
- A local facility is the Yuba Sutter Household Hazardous Waste Collection located at 134 Burns Drive in Yuba City, open on Saturdays from 8:00 am—4:00 pm.

- Wash your vehicle on the lawn or take it to a car wash that recycles its wastewater. **Remember: Biodegradable detergents and other products do not necessarily mean they are "safe for the environment." These products often degrade faster, but are still toxic to aquatic life.**
- Use kitty litter to clean up automotive leaks and spills.
- Reduce your automobile use by carpooling, taking public transit, riding your bike, or walking.

Help keep our waterways clean and healthy for generations to come

Yuba County's many waterways enable us to enjoy boating, swimming and fishing activities, and allow us to appreciate the beauty of the outdoors. They provide great recreational resources for families, and serve as important habitats for wildlife.

Sewers and storm drains are two separate systems

Do you know the difference between the sewer system in your home and the storm drain system located on your street? If the answer is no, you're not alone.

- Water that goes down sinks and toilets flows to a wastewater treatment plant, where it is treated to remove pollutants before entering the river.
- Water that flows onto streets and into gutters goes into the storm drain pipes that flow directly to local creeks. This water flow is called urban runoff. On the way to the creeks, urban runoff picks up pollutants left by cars, people and pets, and eventually ends up—untreated—in our creeks and rivers.

NO DUMPING DRAINS TO RIVER

Why stormwater pollution is a problem...

We don't always see the major effects of stormwater pollution because it's often invisible and a **cumulative problem.** Every pollutant, no matter how small, combines with others to harm aquatic life and affects overall water quality.

Many everyday activities contribute to stormwater pollution. However, there are many ways that **you** can

In your lawn and garden

Improperly applied fertilizers and pesticides can wash off lawns and gardens and pollute creeks and rivers. Over use of these products can be harmful to your lawn as well.

Here is what you can do:

- Plant pest-resistant and well-adapted plant varieties such as native plants.
- Cover dirt and mulch piles used during projects to prevent pollutants from blowing into gutters and storm drains.
- Sweep debris from sidewalks and patios.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly, don't apply two days prior to a forecasted rainfall, and always follow label directions when using these products.
- Dispose of green waste properly. Check with your jurisdiction on proper green waste disposal methods.

Around your house

Home improvements and repairs can generate leftover chemicals and products. If these are disposed of improperly, they can harm the environment.

Here is what you can do:

- Rinse latex paintbrushes in the sink—not in the gutter. If using oil-based paint, avoid using paint thinner for cleaning and use disposable brushes instead of re-usable brushes that have to be cleaned.
- Clean up outdoor spills with a broom, not a hose. Use absorbents –cat litter, sawdust or cornmeal—as needed.
- Buy "non-toxic" cleaning products whenever possible.
- Ensure that companies you hire for services such as carpet cleaning, painting, and hauling, dispose of materials properly.

Contact us for more information on stormwater pollution prevention

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____

Request a brochure or fact sheet

For more information on specific stormwater pollution prevention topics, please indicate which brochure or fact sheet you'd like mailed to you.

- ☐ Carpet cleaning
- ☐ Concrete and creeks don't mix
- ☐ Horse and livestock activities
- ☐ Landscaping and gardening
- ☐ Preserving creeks
- ☐ Painting without polluting
- ☐ Safe disposal of household medications
- ☐ Safe use & disposal of pesticides
- ☐ Vehicle washing & maintenance