

Wastewater and Pollutant Discharges to the Storm Drain System Are Prohibited!

Wastewater discharges to the storm drain system violate federal, state and local laws and may pollute local creeks and rivers. **Wastewater includes any water that has been used for washing or cleaning** and its associated waste products, regardless of whether or not detergents or other chemicals are used in the process.

Wastewater must be managed and disposed of properly to prevent adverse environmental impacts. Common wastewater generating activities that can harm our waterways include:

- surface and pavement cleaning,
- vehicle washing and maintenance,
- equipment cleaning,
- building, HVAC, and rooftop cleaning activities.

If you perform these activities, or others that have the potential to result in wastewater discharges to the storm drain system, you must modify your procedures to fully contain and dispose of your wastewater in order to comply with local stormwater ordinances.

Contact us for more information on stormwater pollution prevention

Name _____

Organization _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Vehicle Washing & Maintenance

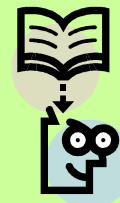
Clean Streams Begin
in Our Driveway



Request a brochure or fact sheet

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

- Carpet Cleaning Activities
- Concrete and Creeks Don't Mix
- Horse and Livestock Activities
- Landscaping and Gardening
- Preserving Creeks Today for Tomorrow
- Painting Without Polluting
- Safe Use & Disposal of Pesticides



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.



Vehicle Washing and Maintenance

Chemicals, dirt, detergents, oil, grease, heavy metals, and road grime are common pollutants in vehicle maintenance and waste water from washing vehicles.

Conducting vehicle maintenance or washing on the street, in your driveway or on other paved surfaces allows these contaminants to drain into our local streams through the storm drain system.

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 harming aquatic life, contaminating our drinking water sources and impairing the enjoyment of our recreational waterways.



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

Here's what you can do:

- Wash your vehicle on the lawn.
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.
- Conserve water and minimize the amount of wastewater you must manage by using a spray nozzle with an automatic shut off.

Here's what else you can do:

- Always empty buckets of wastewater into the sanitary sewer system via sinks, toilets, or sanitary sewer clean-outs, or onto landscaped areas where wastewater can be absorbed.
- Wring sponges and rags into buckets, not onto the ground.
- Do not use acid-based wheel cleaners or engine degreasers unless you can contain, collect, and properly dispose of wastewater.
- Take your vehicle to a commercial car wash that handles wastewater properly.

Avoid and report illegal commercial car wash operators who let waste water drain to the street, a storm drain, or a waterway.

- Regularly check your vehicles for leaks and repair them promptly.
- Take motor oil, antifreeze, and other fluids to an automotive center or gas station with a recycling program. 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.
- Clean up outdoor spills with a broom, not a hose. Use absorbents such as cat litter, sawdust or cornmeal as needed.
- To report a violation, call (530) 749-5420.



Photo courtesy of Gwinnett County Department of Water Resources