

POLLUTION STORMWATER Prevention

HOME & GARDEN

Yard waste and household toxics like paints and pesticides often make their way into the San Bernardino County storm drain system and do not get treated before reaching the Santa Ana River. This pollutes our drinking water and contaminates waterways, making them unsafe for people and wildlife. Follow these simple tips to prevent pollution and protect your health.



Recycle Household Hazardous Waste

Household products like paint, pesticides, solvents and cleaners are too dangerous to dump and too toxic to trash. Take them to be recycled at a convenient household hazardous waste collection facility. Call (800) CLEANUP for the facility in your area.



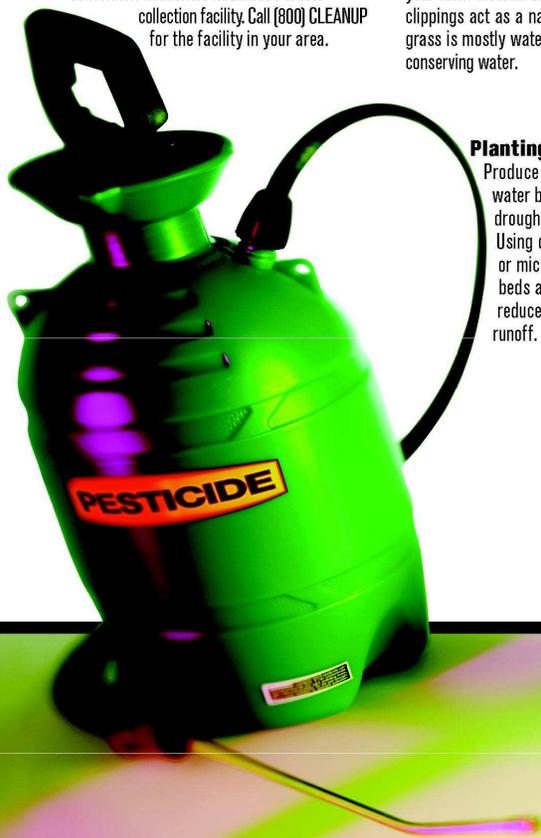
Disposing of Yard Waste

Recycle leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste, instead of blowing, sweeping or hosing into the street. Try grasscycling, leaving grass clippings on your lawn instead of using a grass catcher. The clippings act as a natural fertilizer, and because grass is mostly water, it also irrigates your lawn, conserving water.



Use Fertilizers & Pesticides Safely

Fertilizers and pesticides are often carried into the storm drain system by sprinkler runoff. Try using organic or non-toxic alternatives. If you use chemical fertilizers or pesticides, avoid applying near curbs and driveways and never apply before a rain.



Planting in the Yard

Produce less yard waste and save water by planting low maintenance, drought-tolerant trees and shrubs. Using drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems for flower beds and vegetation can also help reduce your water bill and prevent runoff.



Use Water Wisely

Cut your water costs and prevent runoff by controlling the amount of water and direction of sprinklers. The average lawn needs about an inch of water a week, including rainfall, or 10 to 20 minutes of watering. A half-inch per week is enough for fall and spring. Sprinklers should be on long enough to allow water to soak into the ground but not so long as to cause runoff.

To report illegal dumping or for more information on storm water pollution prevention, call:

1 (800) CLEANUP

www.1800cleanup.org

