



CITY OF SANTEE

STORMWATER INFORMATION

STORMWATER FACT SHEET 16

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YARD & GARDEN MAINTENANCE



HOW CAN GARDENING HARM OUR WATERWAYS?

Yard maintenance can directly impact the quality of our local surface waters. When soil, organic wastes, dirt, leaves, grass clippings, and chemicals leave your yard, they flow directly into creeks and the ocean harming the health of humans and wildlife that swim in the waters, impacting the environment and water quality.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

Whether you take care of your own yard or contract a professional service, you are responsible for ensuring that BMP's are implemented to reduce storm water pollution, protect water quality and conserve our valuable water and natural resources. By implementing the simple solutions in this fact sheet you can take part in protecting our local waterways and beaches.

- Use fertilizers sparingly and possibly consider using an organic fertilizer.
- Use an efficient irrigation method and try to avoid over-watering.
- Break watering down into five minute intervals, or less. This will allow water to soak in before the next application.
- Rather than applying a temporary, chemical only approach, try a natural method such as hand weeding and planting diverse native plants. This will result in a safer long term solution to weed and insect problems.
- Improve the health of your soil by adding compost and using organic mulches. You'll reduce the need for fertilizers and your plants will be healthier. You will also prevent soil erosion.

REMEMBER : When using a professional landscaping service

- Make sure they sweep up clippings and dispose of them properly, rather than blowing them out into the street.
- If you decide to use pesticides, check to make sure the service is properly trained and licensed to apply them.
- Know how often fertilizers are used. Even professionals over-fertilize.
- The property owner is responsible for violations of the Clean Water Act.



TO REPORT STORMWATER POLLUTION IN SANTEE CALL (619) 258-4100 X167