



# CITY OF SANTEE

## Residential Activities & Improvements

Although many residents may not realize it, everyday activities in and/or around the home have direct impacts on water quality. All outside drains are connected to the storm drain system which empty into our local rivers and oceans without being cleaned. Residues left in the ground will eventually make their way to the storm drain system by wind, rain and outdoor water use, making the pollutants from activities listed below key to improving overall water quality.

### Here's How You Can Help!



#### PET WASTE

- ⇒ Don't throw pet waste in any drainage channel, culvert, gutter or drain, bagged or not.

This may be considered "natural," but did you know that the water quality of San Diego River is considered to be impaired due to the presence of bacteria from fecal discharges? ALWAYS carry bags with you so you can pick up after your pet, even at home. Dispose of pet waste in the trash.



#### AUTOMOTIVE

- ⇒ Use drip pans under leaking vehicles
- ⇒ Properly dispose of automotive fluids.

Eliminate the release of motor oil, fuel & other auto fluids from leaking cars. Clean up any fluid spills and leaks immediately; vehicle maintenance is not permitted on city streets or property. Remember the 3 C's: Contain, Control, & Capture all liquids, or use car wash.



#### HOME IMPROVEMENT

- ⇒ Sweep! Do not hose down when cleaning.
- ⇒ Wash paint brushes in the sink or other system connected to the sewer.

Many home improvement projects may involve the use of hazardous materials (paints, solvents etc.). Even powder materials like concrete, sand, and grout can enter storm drains greatly effecting water quality. Capture all liquids and dump in sewer system (Sink, Tub, Toilet etc.) and throw away debris/residue.



#### GARDEN CARE

- ⇒ Do not blow plant debris into the street.
- ⇒ Cover bare soils.
- ⇒ Do not overwater or overuse pesticides & fertilizers.

When soil, organic waste, dirt, leaves, grass clippings, and pesticides leave your yard, they will eventually enter our waterways while picking up additional pollutants along the way. Erosion from bare soil can cause cloudiness and prevent sunlight penetration. This interferes with natural functions such as photosynthesis, respiration, growth, and oxygen exchange in the water column.



#### WASTE MANAGEMENT

- ⇒ Empty all liquids into sink prior to placing in bins
- ⇒ Keep trash and recycling lids closed and stored under a cover
- ⇒ Dispose of household hazardous wastes including paint, cleaners, and batteries for FREE at:

Waste Management, City of El Cajon, end of O' Conner Street, El Cajon CA  
619-596-5100. Household pickup by appointment (no fee)

Storm Water Fact Sheets