

# Residential Pollution Prevention



## Where Do Storm Drains Go?



The storm drain on your curbside does more than guzzle gutter water. It leads directly to our natural water system, including local creeks, ponds and streams.

Unlike household drains that route to a treatment plant, storm drains travel underground and funnel untreated water into our waterways. When that water is tainted by pollutants it can seriously impact our natural water resources.

## What Pollutes Storm Water?

Storm water pollution has many sources.

- Storm-water pollution is also caused by illegal dumping, such as pouring paint or oil into storm drains.
- Many citywide drain inlets are stenciled or stamped with “No Dumping, Flows to Waterways” Thanks to the efforts of volunteers.



- Water from washing cars and over-watering lawns enters our storm drain system carrying detergents, pesticides, fertilizers and pet waste.
- Rainwater innocently washes sediment, grease, dirt, motor oil and antifreeze from sidewalks, streets, driveways and parking lots.

## Ways You Can Help

Never pour anything down a storm drain that you wouldn't want to swim in!

- Keep yard clippings, detergent, trash and animal waste out of the gutter, storm drains and wetland areas. Bag or compost yard waste.
- Bring leftover or unwanted toxic materials such as paint, cleaners, used motor oil and pesticides to an authorized drop-off. For more information on where these materials can be disposed of, contact Western Placer Waste Management Authority.
- Rake or sweep sidewalks and driveways instead of hosing them down. Using a water hose forces debris and chemical residues into storm drains, which clogs gutters, causes street flooding and pollutes waterways.
- Never hose down spills into a storm drain. Use kitty litter or other absorbent material to clean toxic spills from pavement.
- Make it a practice to purchase non-toxic or less-toxic products for home and garden use.
- Use pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers sparingly to reduce run-off and don't apply them if it's windy or if rain is forecasted.
- Keep vehicles and equipment well maintained to avoid leaks.

## Rocklin Recycles

Rocklin consistently exceeds the state's 50% mandated recycling requirement, even reaching the 65% rate by working with Auburn Placer Disposal Service and the Western Placer Waste Management Authority.

In Rocklin, waste sorting occurs at the dump; therefore all residents recycle with no extra effort at home.

- Residents fill one Toter<sup>®</sup> with all household garbage and another with yard clippings. Professionals at the Western Placer Waste Management Material Recovery Facility (MRF) capture the recyclable materials and compost the yard debris for resale and reuse.
- A portion of resident garbage fees go to providing street sweeping services to keep the city drains and gutters free of debris.



- New state regulations prohibit disposal of hazardous items such as fluorescent tubes, consumer batteries and mercury thermostats. These items as well as computer monitors, stereos and televisions can be disposed of at the MRF's Household Hazardous Waste Facility and at the city's universal waste collection events.

## Special Recycling Events

Join the effort to keep Rocklin clean through participating in these special events and programs:

- Take advantage of Rocklin's annual Christmas Tree Recycling program.
- Be a part of Rocklin's quarterly Universal Waste Collection events for disposal of televisions, computers, batteries and other items.
- Participate in Rocklin's annual Spring Clean Up Day and Creek Week in the fall to show your community pride.



- Bring your hazardous waste to the Household Hazardous Waste Facility at the Material Recovery Facility (MRF). For directions, contact the Western Placer Waste Management Authority at [www.wpwma.com](http://www.wpwma.com).
- For more information about recycling and clean up opportunities in Rocklin visit us at [www.rocklin.ca.us](http://www.rocklin.ca.us)



### Did You Know?

Just one quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water.