

Urban runoff flows into storm drains located in the streets. In most cases, it goes directly to our creeks, lakes and rivers.

**How can you help? Look inside!**  
The goal is to protect and enhance the quality of life in our neighborhoods and throughout the community for our enjoyment now... and our children's enjoyment in the future.

Sacramento needs your help to prevent pollution at its source. The Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership is a community wide effort -- of residents, businesses, industries, and public agencies-- to prevent runoff pollution.

**WHERE DOES THIS RUNOFF GO?**  
Right to our storm drains. It flows down streets, through gutters, into pipes, and is channeled by those pipes directly into our creeks, lakes and rivers. All of these replenish our drinking water supply. Because runoff reaches our creeks, lakes and rivers in most cases without being treated first, it's important to keep runoff clean.

- HOW DOES RUNOFF GET DIRTY?**
- Rain scours oil and grit left on streets by our automobiles.
  - Sprinklers wash pesticides, fertilizers and weed killers from our gardens and lawns.
  - Detergents, oils and grease from washing the car; leaves and grass clippings left in the gutter; trash and grime left on parking lots; all make runoff dirty.

**HOW CAN WE MAKE OUR RUNOFF CLEAN & KEEP IT CLEAN?**

SACRAMENTO



STORMWATER  
QUALITY  
PARTNERSHIP

The Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership is a cooperative effort of Sacramento County and the cities of Sacramento, Folsom, Galt, Elk Grove, Rancho Cordova and Citrus Heights to protect the health of our local waterways.

To report illegal dumping call:  
**(916) 808-4H2O (4426)**

This brochure has been published by the Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership. For more information on stormwater pollution prevention call:  
Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership:  
**(916) 808-4H2O (4426)**  
Or visit our web site:  
[www.sacramentostormwater.org](http://www.sacramentostormwater.org)

Pollution prevention information is available nationwide by calling: **1-800-CLEANUP**



Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership has adapted this guide from one originally developed and generously shared by the Fresno Metropolitan Flood Control District.

**You are the solution...**

**...to stormwater pollution!**

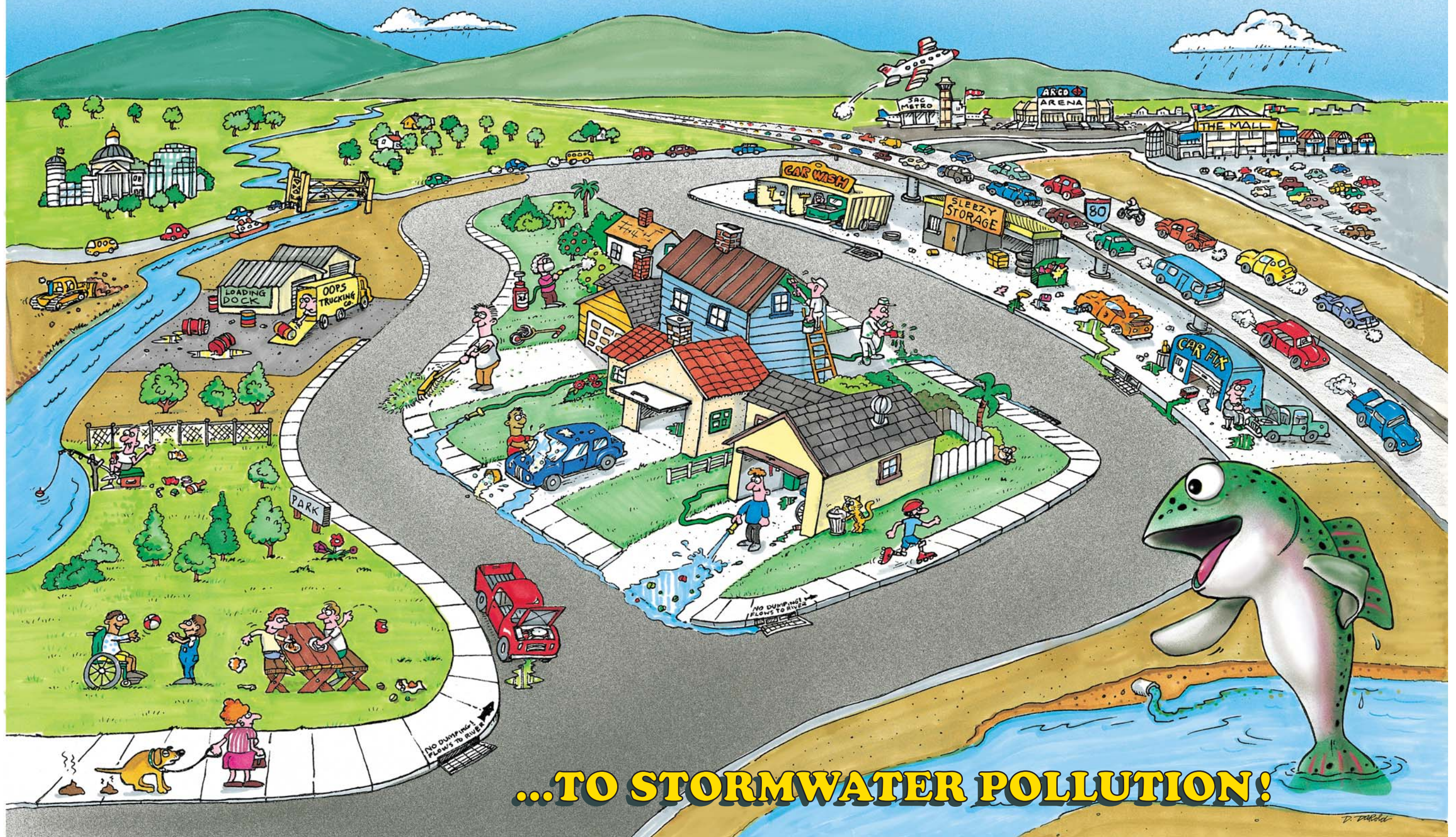
**Clean Stormwater...plays an important part.**

**Water** - it's priceless, vital, essential. We use it to grow food. We play in it. We water our lawns with it. We drink it!

But urban runoff - stormwater from rainfall and outdoor watering - picks up oil, dirt, litter and other materials on the ground and in streets. These materials can affect our water supplies.

**That's why Clean Stormwater is important to YOU!**

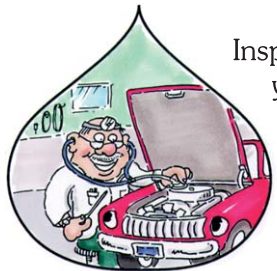
# YOU ARE THE SOLUTION...



## ...TO STORMWATER POLLUTION!

Can you find the urban practices that contribute to water pollution? The illustration above shows how our lifestyle can contribute to pollution of our water resources. Here's how you can help prevent stormwater pollution!

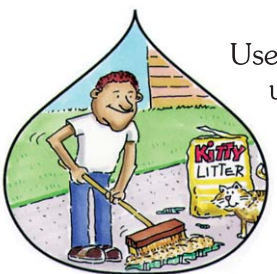
### AUTOMOTIVE CARE



Inspect and maintain your car regularly to prevent leaks of oil, antifreeze and other fluids.

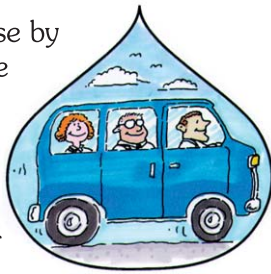
Take motor oil, antifreeze and other fluids to an automotive center or gas station with a recycling program or participate in a curbside motor oil pickup program.

For more info call:  
City of Sacramento: (916) 808-4800  
County of Sacramento: (916) 363-9390



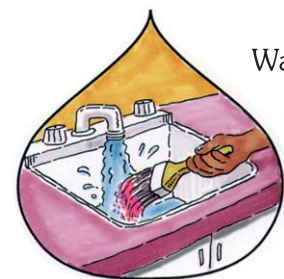
Use kitty litter to clean up leaks and spills. **Never hose down spills into the gutter!**

Reduce automobile use by car-pooling, riding the bus, riding your bike or walking. Remember, when it rains, air pollution turns into stormwater pollution!



### HOUSEHOLD MAINTENANCE

Try to avoid purchasing oil-based paint! Unused oil-based paint, paint thinner, varnishes and solvents are hazardous wastes and must be taken to a household hazardous waste collection event. Save and re-use paint thinner and brush cleaners whenever possible.



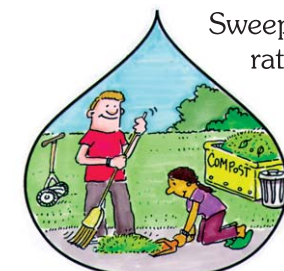
Water-based (e.g. latex) paint brushes should be rinsed out in the sink.

Oil-based and water-based paint cans can both be disposed of in the garbage once they are empty and dry.



Sweep sidewalks and patios rather than hose debris into gutters. In the City, compost or place garden refuse at curbside on the day of collection, making sure not to block the flow of water. In the County, compost or place in garden refuse container.

For composting information call:  
City of Sacramento: (916) 808-4800  
County of Sacramento: (916) 363-9390



Purchase household and garden products that are "least toxic" to the environment. Try to purchase only the amount of product you need. Properly store leftovers for later use. For more information about least toxic pest control, call the UC Master Gardeners at (916) 875-6913.

Apply all household and garden products sparingly and in accordance with the instructions on the label. **Do not apply lawn or garden products when rain is forecasted.**

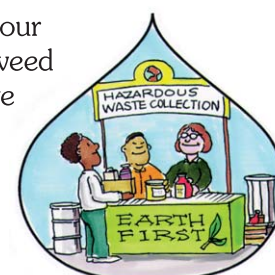


Rinse empty lawn and garden chemical containers three times. Each time, pour the rinse water into the applicator and use it in your application of the product.



If you cannot use up your pesticides, fertilizers, weed killers, paints, etc., give them to a friend who may need them or take them to a local household hazardous waste collection event. For more information call:

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County of Sacramento: (916) 363-9390



Shovel up animal wastes, seal in bags and throw away in a garbage can. Animal wastes may also be flushed down the toilet.



### MORE THINGS YOU CAN DO TO PREVENT POLLUTION



Remember to reduce, re-use and recycle all materials whenever possible. Throw all litter and trash into covered trash containers.

### Stencil a Storm Drain

Let others know about protecting our waterways. The Cities of Sacramento and Folsom and Sacramento County will provide everything you need to paint a storm drain in your neighborhood with the "NO DUMPING! PLUGS TO RIVER!" stencil. It's a great project for a neighborhood, school class or community group. To learn about the volunteer stenciling program call:

Sacramento Stormwater Quality Partnership:  
(916) 808-4H2O (4426)

