

Riverside's Solution to Runoff Pollution

What is Runoff?

When water from rain and outdoor water use runs off roofs, driveways, and sidewalks, it brings everything it touches with it. This runoff can include trash, fertilizer, pet waste, home solvents, and other pollutants which ends up in Riverside County's waterways.

Water that goes into Riverside County's storm drains is NOT TREATED

Whether residents or businesses intentionally or accidentally let runoff flow into storm drains, it can harm our creeks, rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean. While wastewater from toilets, sinks, and showers gets treated, water that flows into the storm drain goes untreated into our waterways.

What Common Pollutants are Found in Runoff?

Here are some common pollutants and actions you can take to prevent them from flowing into Riverside County's storm drains and waterways.



Pollutants and Prevention

Pet Waste

Pet waste has harmful bacteria that can contaminate Riverside County's bodies of water and neighboring ecosystems. This can lead to residents getting sick, algal blooms, and plants and animals dying. Always pick up after your pet on walks and in your yard, especially before it rains.

Trash

Litter like cigarette butts, candy and food wrappers/containers, and straws can harm our waterways and cause drainage issues. Make sure to place all trash in covered trash cans to prevent wind or rain from taking it into the storm drain system.

Automotive Chemicals

Liquids like motor oil, fuels, lubricants, and antifreeze can damage water quality and harm wildlife if they get into our creeks, rivers, and lakes. Make sure to repair leaking vehicles as soon as possible and clean spills with absorbents available at home and auto supply shops. Used engine oil can be recycled at the Murrieta, Beaumont, or Moreno Valley ABOP and PaintCare Facilities or where the oil was purchased.

Yard Clippings

If yard clippings aren't properly disposed of, they can cause erosion, flooding, and prevent stormwater drainage. Collect all clippings after doing yard work and properly dispose of them by composting or placing them in a green waste bin.

Fertilizers and Pesticides

These can enter the storm drain after it rains or when landscaped areas are over irrigated. Limit your pesticide, fertilizer, and herbicide use by using non-chemical methods whenever possible. If they are necessary, follow the manufacturer's instructions and do not apply them 48 hours before predicted rain.

Soapy Car Wash Water

Dirt and debris from your car, along with chemicals in the soap, can harm our creeks, rivers, and lakes if they flow untreated into our waterways. Wash your car over a gravel or grassy area, or take it to a commercial car wash to limit runoff pollution.

Household Chemicals

Paint and other household chemicals like solvents, degreasers, and drain cleaners are hazardous to aquatic life and human health if they get into the storm drain system. Make sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions, clean spills with absorbents, and dispose of unused paints and household chemicals at the Murrieta, Beaumont, or Moreno Valley ABOP and PaintCare Facilities (rcwaste.org/hhw).



For more information about keeping our waterways clean, visit: rcwatershed.org/about/stormwater-pollution-prevention.

Who We Are


Riverside County Watershed Protection is a partnership program between Riverside County, the Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and 27 cities that manage watershed programs which protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of the water and the natural environment of our watersheds.


What We Do

The partnership uses a combination of public education, best management practices, evaluation, and water quality monitoring to eliminate stormwater pollution in our waterways and comply with all federal, state, and local regulations. Our aim is to empower residents with information about pollution prevention and implement tactics that keep our watersheds healthy.

Contact Us:

To report pollution:

 Call (800) 506-2555

 Visit rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution

 For emergencies, dial 911



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WATERSHED PROTECTION