



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WATERSHED PROTECTION

Irrigation Runoff Stormwater Fact Sheet

Report Irrigation Runoff or
Stormwater Pollution
800.506.2555



Be the Solution. Prevent Runoff Pollution.

The water that flows into storm drains is not treated before flowing into Riverside County's creeks, rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean (unlike the sanitary sewer system). It should never contain washwater or pollutants like pesticides, fertilizer, dirt, leaves, and other hazardous substances generated by irrigation runoff. If these pollutants are not properly contained, they can runoff into the storm drain and harm our waterways.

Preventing runoff pollution while maintaining your property protects aquatic life, water quality, and keeps our waterways thriving. To take care of your green spaces, make sure to only use pesticides and fertilizers when absolutely necessary and never before rain, prevent overwatering, and sweep debris regularly.

Irrigation Pollutant Sources

Overwatering

Overwatering can cause dirt, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, and organic waste to flow into the storm drain.

Pesticide, Fertilizer, or Herbicide Use

Pesticide, fertilizer, or herbicide use 48 hours before or during rain can lead to these chemicals going untreated into our waterways.

Improper Maintenance Before Rain

Leaving pet waste, leaves, grass clippings, and chemicals on the ground (from property neglect or landscape maintenance) before or during rain can cause them to flow into the storm drain.

Runoff From Commercial Properties

Commercial properties, like golf courses, can cause pesticides, dirt, oil, and other hazardous waste to runoff.

Best Management Practices for Irrigation

Protect our waterways while maintaining your green spaces by implementing these BMPs (best management practices):



For more information about stormwater-safe irrigation practices, visit: rcwatershed.org/residents/at-home/overwatering/.

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



Prevent Overwatering

- ✓ Only give your lawn and garden the amount of water it needs, and use drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems. Do not water when it is raining and use an irrigation timer to pre-set watering times.
- ✓ Conduct a Sprinkler Spruce Up regularly to ensure overwatering and runoff aren't occurring. If you notice a leak in your irrigation system, repair it immediately.
- ✓ Redirect your downspout to a rain garden, dry creek bed, rain barrel, or underwatered part of your lawn.



Plant Riverside County-Native Vegetation

- ✓ Plant native vegetation like foothill penstemon and red bush monkeyflower to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers, and pesticides needed.
- ✓ Plant fast-growing and dense ground covering plants like California fuchsia and Angelita daisy to prevent erosion. For landscaping ideas visit: www.bewaterwise.com.



Utilize Business Best Practices

- ✓ Wash golf carts and lawn mowers over permeable surfaces.
- ✓ Cover storm drains when conducting washing and maintenance activities to prevent washwater from flowing into the storm drain.
- ✓ If your golf course handles reportable quantities of hazardous waste, you are required to submit a Hazardous Materials Business Plan through the California Environmental Reporting System. Visit rcwaste.org/business/hw for more info.
- ✓ Keep stockpiles at least 50 feet from concentrated flows of stormwater, drainage courses, and inlets.
- ✓ Regularly inspect and maintain oil storage tanks, drums, and areas to keep them in good condition.
- ✓ Utilize a commercial water broom to wash hard surfaces like tennis courts, patios, parking areas, and sidewalks, and make sure washwater never enters the storm drain system.