



It's that time of year-when we rake leaves, clear gutters, replace windshield wiper blades. But did you know you can also help protect our local creeks and environment? With the coming rains, anything we spill, drop, throw, or store on the ground can be washed off by storm water and enter a creek or river, having a toxic effect on fish and wildlife. Below are some ways that you can be rain ready and help reduce pollution in our waterways. A good rule of thumb to remember is "Only rain down the storm-drain" as almost everything else can become a pollutant. The damage can impact our creeks and our health. It costs less to prevent pollution than to clean up the creeks. Let's all do our part!

Rain Ready Solutions

- Dispose pet waste in a trash container.
- Pick up leaf litter and yard clippings around your home.
- Garden products, gas-powered garden equipment, or chemicals stored outside should be securely covered before it rains.
- Minimize use of pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers, and avoid applying these chemicals if rain is in the forecast.
- Turn down your irrigation system run times during the dry fall months, and turn your system off once the rains begin.
- Fix all car leaks.
- Use a commercial car wash, which recycles water and keeps soap out of the storm drain. If you wash your car at home, do it on a lawn and dispose bucket of soapy water in the sink.
- Clean out your pickup truck bed, and secure items hauled in or on top of your vehicle.
- Dispose motor oil, antifreeze, paint, paint thinner, batteries, and chemical cleaning products at a household hazardous waste collection facility.
- Sweep up the street gutter in front of your residence placing garbage and yard waste into the correct bins. This will help our creeks and help prevent local flooding.

For More Information

Polluted runoff can come from a variety of sources - oil and grease from pavement; trash and pet waste from our yards or parks; fertilizers and pesticides from lawns or gardens; sediment from construction activities; and improperly stored loose materials like garden mulch or topsoil. CHECK OUT the other links on the City of Santa Rosa Pollution Prevention At Home webpage.



Telephone Contacts

- 707-543-4200 Storm water and the storm drain system
- 707-565-3375 Questions on hazardous materials disposal and recycling www.recyclenow.org
- 707-543-3800 If spilled material reaches the storm drain system
- **707-528-5151 OR 911** If spilled material is hazardous