

CAUTION
WET FLOORfrom the street to the creek
Business Done Right

Hotels and Motels

Activities at hotels and motels, including remodeling, maintenance, cleaning, and guest use of parking lots, can involve many types of products that contain pollutants. If spilled or disposed of improperly these contaminants can pollute our local creeks and sewer system and cause harm to the public and the environment.

The most important thing to know about sewers and storm drains is that they are two different systems. All outside storm drains flow directly to the nearest creek, where pollutants such as paint, oil, soap and chemicals can harm fish, wildlife, and people. Only the water that goes down a sink, toilet, or another inside drain flows to the wastewater treatment plant. Toxic material cannot be discharged to either system. Hotel and motel owners and managers can play a key role in helping to prevent damage to our local creeks and sewer system thus reducing the likelihood of costly cleanups.

As a valued member of the local business community, we know that you are invested in protecting the quality of life that your customers, members of the community, and visitors enjoy.

Landscaping

- Require landscapers to haul yard waste away. Clippings and leaves can block drains and their decomposition can harm fish by removing oxygen from the water.
- Never put yard waste in the storm drain system.
- Leaves are yard waste too. They must be collected and hauled away. Keep them out of the gutter and catch basins.
- Use natural non-toxic alternatives to fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides whenever possible.
- If you must use traditional products, spot apply only.
- Avoid application of these chemicals on hard surfaces, such as curbs and driveways.

- Check the weather and don't spray chemicals if rain or high wind is forecasted.
- Keep fertilizer, herbicide, and pesticide application away from creeks, ponds, and ditches as a rule. Spraying within 100 feet of these features requires a permit from the State.
- These chemicals must be disposed of as hazardous waste. Call (707) 565-DESK (3375) for information and locations.

Irrigation

- Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are often carried into the storm drain system by sprinkler runoff.
- Don't water the pavement! Redirect irrigation water so it is only watering the landscape.
- Fix leaks. Irrigation systems that leak, overspray, or gush water waste both water and money.
- Use drip and bubbler irrigation that apply water to the plant root zones at the rate it can soak in.
- Low flow sprinkler heads can also minimize overspray and evaporation and reduce runoff.

Building Maintenance

- Chemicals, paints, solvents, cleaning agents, oils, fuels, pesticides, and other toxic materials need to be stored inside or under a cover so rain and wind don't carry them to the storm drain. Keep them locked up and out of the reach of children.
- These types of products require special disposal. Call the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency's Eco-Desk at (707) 565-DESK (3375), or go www.recyclenow.org for disposal information.
- Construction materials such as concrete, dry wall, dirt, and paint need to be stored under a waterproof cover and away from storm drains and creek banks. These materials, although not necessarily hazardous waste, are extremely harmful to fish and their habitat.
- Include appropriate language in work contracts to ensure your contractors never dispose of paint, construction

wastes, or cleaning wastewater to the storm drain. These discharges are illegal.

- Carpet cleaning waste water must be discharged to the sanitary sewer, never the storm drain.

Parking Areas

- Automobiles can drip oil, antifreeze, and other automotive fluids, which can easily wash into storm drains and creeks.
- Clean up wet or oily spots with rags and absorbent then dispose of waste material at the Household Toxics Facility.
- Sweep up all debris, including any debris from your parking lot, and never wash it down the storm drain.
- Label storm drain inlets with "No Dumping, Drains to Creek" decals. Contact Storm Water and Creeks at (707) 543-4200 for more information.
- Pour the mop wash water into an inside drain only.
- Never let power washing or steam cleaning water go to the storm drain. It must be collected and disposed of into a sewer drain. Waste water from the washing of vehicles must be collected and discharged to the sanitary sewer.
- All soaps, even when labeled "biodegradable", are toxic to fish and wildlife.

Dumpster Areas

- Sweep the trash areas. Never use a hose in your dumpster or on the pavement.
- Keep dumpster lids closed to keep rain out and debris in.
- Ensure dumpsters do not leak and that any drain holes are plugged.
- Replace damaged dumpsters by calling your garbage company.

Swimming Pools, Hot Tubs, and Spas

- Never empty swimming pool water and chemicals to the storm drain. They must be drained to the sanitary sewer.
- When cleaning pool filters, all collected materials and debris must go into the garbage.

Restaurant

- All restaurants need a Wastewater Discharge Permit with the City of Santa Rosa. For a Wastewater Discharge Permit Application go to www.srcity.org/foodapp. Contact Environmental Compliance at (707) 543-3369 for more information.
- Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) are a major cause of preventable sanitary sewer blockages and overflows that can cause health hazards, damage homes and businesses, and threaten the environment.
- In most cases a grease trap or grease interceptor will be required, and regularly maintaining this device is essential.

- For more information on restaurant management visit www.srcity.org/foodservice.

Santa Rosa Contact Information

- For more information on storm water and the storm drain system call the Utilities Department at (707) 543-4200, and ask for Storm Water.
- To get information on recycling and proper disposal of materials call (707) 565-DESK (3375), or go to www.recyclenow.org.
- To get information on toxics disposal specifically call (707) 795-2025.
- If spilled material reaches the storm drain system call (707) 543-3800 to report it.
- If there is a spill of hazardous materials call 911 or (707) 528-5151.
- To get information regarding dumpsters contact your garbage company at (707) 568-1478.
- For more information about obtaining a Wastewater Discharge Permit call the Environmental Compliance Section at (707) 543-3369 or visit www.srcity.org/envcompliance.

Resources

- Russian River-Friendly Landscape Guidelines at www.rrwatershed.org/programs/RRFLG
- Our Water Our World - information on non-toxic methods of controlling pests at www.ourwaterourworld.org

Releasing pollutants into the storm drain system or a waterway violates the City of Santa Rosa's Storm Water and Sanitary Sewer Use Ordinances.



Contact information for businesses outside of Santa Rosa:



City of Cloverdale

Public Works Department

<http://www.cloverdale.net/index.aspx?nid=254>

(707) 894-1792



City of Cotati

Public Works/Engineering Department

<http://www.ci.cotati.ca.us/sections/departments/pw-storm-water.cfm>

During Business Hours: (707)665-3637

After Hours: (707)792-4611

Businesses in Cotati seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Fort Bragg

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm>

(707) 964-5379



City of Healdsburg

Public Works Department

<http://www.ci.healdsburg.ca.us/index.aspx?page=192>

(707) 431-3346



City of Rohnert Park

Public Works Department – Public Safety Dispatch

<http://www.rpcity.org/index.aspx?page=357>

(707) 588-3300

Businesses in Rohnert Park seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Sebastopol

Public Works Department for reporting issues

Engineering Department for questions

<http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/page/water-wastewater-storm-water>

During Business Hours: (707) 823-5331

After Hours: (707) 829-4400

Businesses in Sebastopol seeking to apply for a wastewater discharge permit should contact the City of Santa Rosa Environmental Compliance Section at 707-543-3369.



City of Ukiah

Public Works Department

<http://www.cityofukiah.com/?p=173>

(707) 463-6296



Mendocino County

<http://www.co.mendocino.ca.us/planning/stormwater.htm>



Sonoma County

PRMD Engineering

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-contact.htm>

<http://www.sonoma-county.org/prmd/sw/sw-spill.htm>

During Business Hours: (707) 565-2502

After Hours: (707) 573-1365 (REDCOM)



Sonoma County Water Agency

Public Works Department – Engineering Division

<http://www.scwa.ca.gov/storm-water/>

During Business Hours: (707) 521-1865



Town of Windsor

<http://www.ci.windsor.ca.us/index.aspx?nid=232>

(707) 838-5340