

Apartment Complexes

Activities at apartment complexes, including remodeling, maintenance, and cleaning, as well as tenant 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. When water flows off your property, it flows directly into the storm water drainage system. The storm water drainage system consists of street gutters, inlets, catch basins, and ditches. Many people believe that storm water gets “cleaned” but it does not. Rather, it flows directly into our creeks, rivers, lakes, and the ocean without any treatment at all. 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.

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.

Keep Your Property Clean

- Check and clean your property regularly.
- Sweep up all debris, including any debris from your parking lot, and never wash it down the storm drain.
- Clean up wet or oily spots with rags and absorbent or a designated mop.
- Pour the mop wash water into an inside drain only (be aware that even mops and wash water may need to be disposed of as hazardous waste if used to clean up gas or oil).
- Label storm drain inlets with “No Dumping, Drains to Creek” decals. Contact Storm Water and Creeks at (707) 543-4200 for more information.

- Never let power washing or steam cleaning water go to the storm drain. It must be collected and disposed of into a sewer drain.
- Sweep the trash areas daily. Never use a hose in your dumpster or on the pavement.
- Ensure dumpsters do not leak. Replace damaged or leaking dumpsters by calling your garbage company.
- 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.

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 are wasting 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.
- Never let power washing or steam cleaning water enter the storm drain. It must be collected and disposed of into a sewer drain.

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.

When Tenants Move Out: Remember, anything left behind by tenants becomes your responsibility. Make sure things like trash, cleaning products, and paint are removed by your tenants and properly disposed of. If you don't know how to dispose of something, the Sonoma County Recycling Guide is a great resource.

Are You Ready to Respond to a Spill?

- Have a written plan.
- Train your employees on procedures and equipment use.
- Have your plan and spill cleanup equipment accessible.
- Know how to handle hazardous materials.
- Have Material Safety Data Sheets for any products you are using.
- Report hazardous spills.

Santa Rosa Contact Information

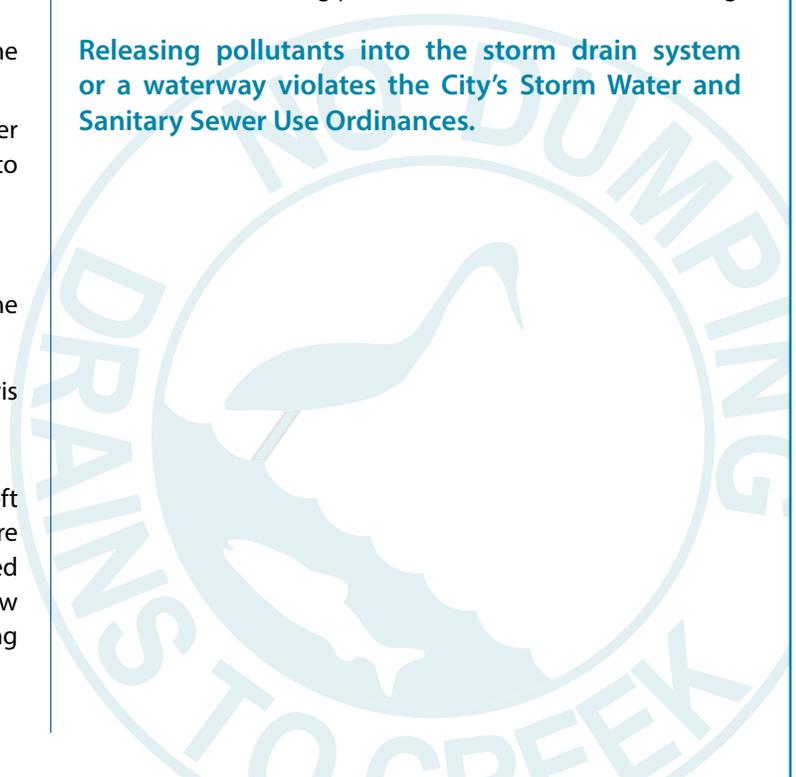
- For help implementing these measure or if you have questions about storm water call (707) 543-4200, and ask for Storm Water.
- For proper disposal questions on hazardous materials and recycling call the Eco-Desk at (707) 565-DESK (3375), or visit www.recyclenow.org
- To report a spill call (707) 543-3800.
- To report a hazardous material spill, such as oil or gasoline products call 911 or (707) 528-5151.
- To get information regarding dumpsters contact your garbage company at (707) 568-1478.
- To get information on toxics disposal specifically call (707) 795-2025.

Resources

Russian River-Friendly Landscape Guidelines webpage at www.rrwatershed.org/programs/RRFLG

Our Water Our World webpage has 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'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