

Even though you may live miles from the San Francisco Bay or the Pacific Ocean, you may be polluting these waters without realizing it

Unless we take steps to prevent it, motor oil, paint products, pet wastes, and chemicals we use in our homes and gardens are washed day after day into neighborhood gutters and storm drains by rainwater and water from lawn watering. These pollutants flow through the storm drain system into local creeks and empty directly into the Bay or the Ocean. They present an ongoing hazard for the fish, birds, and other wildlife living in and around the Bay and Ocean and for many of us who use and enjoy our most valuable natural resource — water.

Have you ever wondered what happens to ...

- o the motor oil on the roads and highways that makes driving so dangerous after it rains?
- o the old antifreeze that is dumped in the gutter?
- o particles of air pollution from car exhaust?
- o detergent from washing your car?
- o dirt leaves, and lawn clippings left in the gutter?

And

- o the trash and grime that collect on parking lots, sidewalks, and roofs?
- o soil that erodes down a slope into the street?
- o weed killers and fertilizers that run off a lawn?
- o animal waste left on lawns, streets, and sidewalks?

These are the kinds of pollutants that flow through the storm drain system beneath our streets and into our waterways.

How does this happen?

Rainwater and water from our lawns and gardens scour these pollutants off streets, sidewalks, roofs, parking lots, and other impervious surfaces, carrying them into the storm drain system.

Because the storm drain system is separate from our household sewer system, this pollution flows directly into our creeks and ultimately to the San Francisco Bay or the Pacific Ocean — without treatment of any kind!

How you can help

You can help prevent stormwater pollution by being a responsible consumer. You can make a big difference by properly using and disposing of toxic products. Keep your automobile well maintained to avoid leaks. Also, keep yard clippings, dirt, detergent, trash, and animal waste out of the gutter and storm drains.

See the inside of this brochure for more tips on preventing Stormwater pollution around your home and in your neighborhood.

Remember - only rain down the storm drain

For more information about proper disposal of toxic products call:

- o the San Mateo County Household Hazardous Waste Hotline **Automated Voicemail** at (650) 363-4718

For more information about recycling, call:

- o Call the "Earth's 911" at 1-800-CLEANUP, 24 hours a day, to get important recycling information and disposal options, or call (650) 363-4305.
- o or visit the RecycleWorks website at <http://www.earth911.org/>

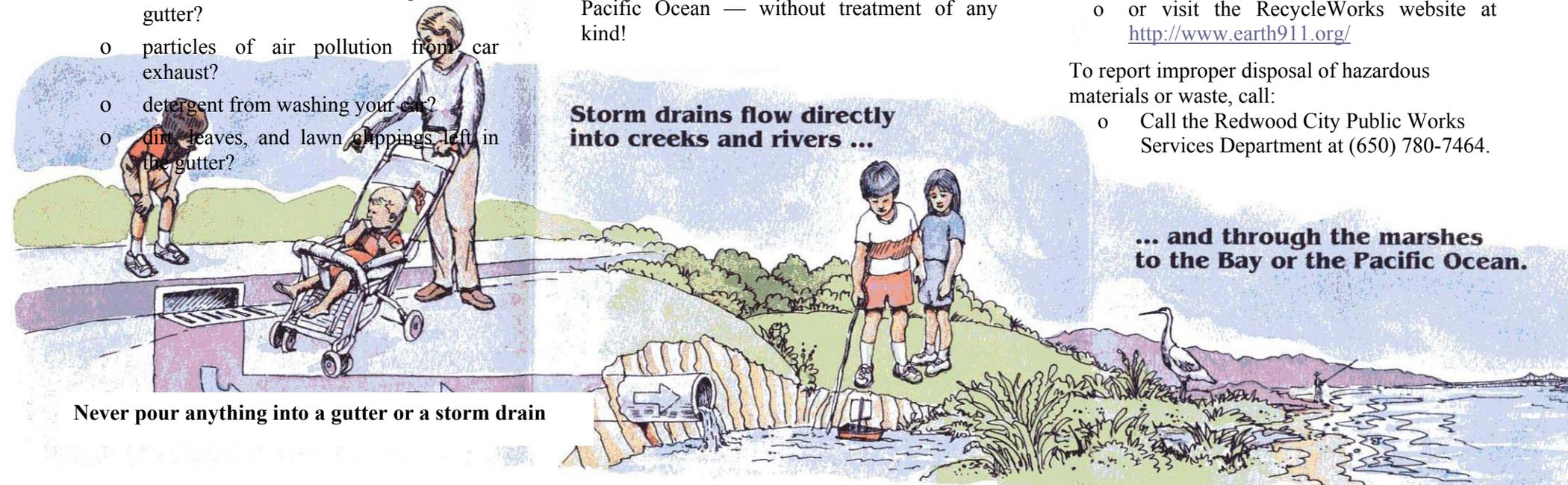
To report improper disposal of hazardous materials or waste, call:

- o Call the Redwood City Public Works Services Department at (650) 780-7464.

Storm drains flow directly into creeks and rivers ...

... and through the marshes to the Bay or the Pacific Ocean.

Never pour anything into a gutter or a storm drain



The Bay and Ocean are closer than you think.

You can help minimize the stormwater pollution that enters the Bay and Ocean by following the suggestions below.

Household and Home Maintenance



Minimize the number and amount of products that you buy. Buy only quantities that you will use in the near future to avoid storage; and disposal problems and to minimize your personal exposure to toxics.



Properly use and store all toxic products, including cleaners, solvents, and paints.



Recycle reusable materials. Throw non-hazardous litter into trashcans and keep rims tightly covered to prevent foraging by neighborhood animals. Dispose of unwanted hazardous household products through the County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Program* or offer to friends or community groups.



For latex paint, rinse brushes in the sink. Filter and reuse oil-based paint and thinners. Dispose of left over and waste materials through HHW.* Empty, dry paint cans go in the garbage.



When working with concrete, cement, or mortar, be sure to prevent materials from blowing or flowing to a driveway, street, or storm drain. When excavating and landscaping, protect dirt piles from wind and rain.



Use cat litter or other absorbent material to clean up spills of toxic material from pavement. If spill was less than 1 liquid gallon, double bag and dispose of the used absorbent material in the garbage. If more, contact the HHW Program for advice. Also, be sure that your carpet cleaning company disposes of their wastewater down your utility sink — not the storm drain.

Lawn and Garden



Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizer carefully and sparingly in accordance with label instructions. Do not apply if rain is forecast! Dispose of unwanted products through the HHW Program. Learn about organic gardening practices, which use less toxic gardening products.



Use a broom rather than a hose to clean up garden clippings. Don't leave leaves and lawn clippings in the gutter. Sweep any residue after yard waste pick-up, but don't sweep into the storm drain. Start your own compost pile and compost non-woody garden waste.



Divert rainspouts and garden hoses from paved surfaces onto grass to allow filtration through the soil. Water only your lawn and garden — not the sidewalk or driveway.



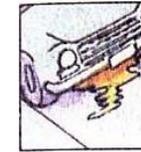
Pick up animal wastes and dispose of in garbage cans or home toilets

Automotive



Recycle Your Used Motor Oil, Oil Filters, Antifreeze, and Car Batteries! San Mateo County HHW Collection Centers lists collection points available to the public for disposal of waste oil, oil filters, antifreeze, and used

automobile batteries at no charge. Call first to find out when they are open. These facilities will take waste oil and antifreeze in quantities of 5 gallons or less. DO NOT leave your oil or other materials at an unattended station.



Have your car inspected and maintained regularly to reduce leakage of oil, antifreeze, and other fluids. Reduce automotive emissions through regular auto maintenance, ride sharing, and by using public transportation.



Wash cars on lawns or unpaved surfaces when possible, or use a commercial car wash. Dispose of soapy water in a sink or toilet not the driveway, gutter, street, or storm drain. All types of soap are toxic to fish.

You can also control stormwater pollution by supporting city and county activities to clean streets and to provide convenient sites to take hazardous wastes and recyclables.

Since most people don't realize they may be contributing to stormwater pollution, spread the word! Get your neighbors and co-workers involved!

Together, we can make a difference in keeping the Bay and Ocean clean and healthy for fish, birds, wildlife and ourselves.



San Mateo Countywide
Stormwater Pollution
Prevention Program

*For more information, call the County Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Hotline at (650) 3634718 or visit them on the web at: <http://www.co.sanmateo.ca.us/smc/departments/>