



## Systems:

### STORM DRAINS VS. SANITARY SEWER

Storm drain and sanitary sewer systems have two distinct functions. It is very important to understand the difference.

Catch basins are the entryway into the **Storm Drain System** and are typically located at the bottom of a hill or at street corners. This system collects and transports water and other liquids away from these areas and out to a local waterbody untreated. The Storm Drain System does not remove pollutants from water before it is discharged into streams and rivers.



The **Sanitary Sewer System** collects wastewater from indoor plumbing such as sinks, toilets, washing machines, and floor drains where it is transported through underground pipes to a sewage treatment plant. The treatment plant removes many pollutants from wastewater before it is discharged back into the river.



City of Patterson  
1 Plaza  
P.O. Box 667  
Patterson, CA 95363  
(209) 895-8000

## Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program



### Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for the:

## General Public



**Remember:**  
**"Only Rain Down the Drain!"**



# STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

## BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE GENERAL PUBLIC



Improper disposal of animal, household, and yard waste is harmful to the environment, hazardous to public health and violates state and federal law. Waste materials from homes and businesses include paint, pesticides, fertilizers, lawn and garden clippings, animal waste, cleansers, and many more. Even water-soluble cleaning products contain chemicals that are harmful to aquatic life and drinking water supplies.

The following disposal and cleanup guidelines can help you protect the environment and keep you in compliance with the law.

### ADOPT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPTIONS

Helpful tips when handling household and other wastes.

#### CHANGING AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS

- 💧 Designate an area away from storm or sanitary sewer drains to change automotive fluids.
- 💧 Collect, separate, and recycle motor oil, anti-freeze, transmission fluid, and gear oil.
- 💧 Drain brake fluid and other non-recyclables into a proper container and handle as a hazardous waste.
- 💧 Use a radiator flushing fluid that can be recycled and add it to the waste anti-freeze.



**NEVER ALLOW USED AUTOMOTIVE FLUIDS TO BE DUMPED INTO THE STORM DRAIN OF YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.**

#### ANIMALS AND BIRDS

- 💧 Never rinse pet or bird waste into the street where it can travel to the storm drain system.
- 💧 Pick up pet waste and dispose of it in your toilet or bag and place in the garbage container.

#### DRIVEWAY AND GARAGE

- 💧 Drain all fluids from wrecked vehicles or "parts" cars you keep on site.
- 💧 For occasional car exterior cleaning, minimize the water used and divert runoff to landscaped areas, keep it out of the storm drain system. Better yet, pull vehicle onto grassy area and water your lawn as well.
- 💧 Give any unused fertilizers, paints, or pesticides to a neighbor who can use them. Never dispose of unused chemicals into trash containers.
- 💧 Make sure all chemicals are stored in an area where should a spill occur it can be easily contained and not allowed to reach the storm or sewer drain systems. Always have an absorbent type material, such as kitty litter, on hand for spills.
- 💧 Make sure no wastewater from engine or parts cleaning or steam cleaning is discharged where it may flow to a street, gutter, parking lot or storm drain system.
- 💧 Place large pans or an inflatable portable berm under wrecked or non-operated cars.
- 💧 Routinely inspect equipment to wipe up spills and repair leaks.
- 💧 Sweep-up trash and dirt from outdoor parking and maintenance areas. Do not hose down areas. All non-storm water discharges are prohibited.
- 💧 Take all unused fertilizers, paints, pesticides, and other household hazardous wastes to the nearest Household Hazardous Waste facility. Never dispose of these products in garbage containers.
- 💧 Wash vehicles with biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents.

For more information on hazardous waste removal call Stanislaus County Environmental Resources:  
**(209) 525-6700**

Or visit us online at [www.ci.patterson.ca.us](http://www.ci.patterson.ca.us)

#### SWIMMING POOLS AND SPAS

- 💧 If at all possible, drain all pool and spa water to the sanitary sewer system through your cleanout on the side of your house. However, be careful not to discharge at a rate that will cause a sewer backup in your neighborhood.
- 💧 Never discharge chlorinated pool or spa water to the street where it can flow into the storm drain system.
- 💧 Never rinse filters where the rinse water can flow into the storm drain system.
- 💧 Properly store all pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks and in so that they cannot flow to storm drain system should a spill occur.

#### LANDSCAPE AND LAWN

- 💧 Don't overwater your lawn. Follow the City's Water Schedule.
- 💧 Mulch instead of mow.
- 💧 Plant only natives in your garden as they require less care and watering.
- 💧 Sweep all grass and leaves into a pile and containerize or better yet, compost.
- 💧 Use fertilizers according to directions and never allow water to run over sidewalks and into streets when applying.

#### **TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OR A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN:**

City of Patterson  
Stormwater Pollution  
Prevention Program  
**(209) 895-8060**

