



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
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P.O. Box 667
Patterson, CA 95363
(209) 895-8000

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program



Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Landscape Industry



Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

- Gardeners
- Landscapers
- Lawn Care Providers
- Yard Maintenance Providers



Remember:
"Only Rain Down the Drain!"



STORMWATER POLLUTION SOLUTIONS

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES FOR THE LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY



Residential neighborhoods are common sources of stormwater pollution such as those that come from poor landscaping practices. Discharges from these sources may contain nitrogen, phosphorus, pesticides and waste from animals. These types of discharges enter into the storm drain system, by way of city streets, has a direct impact on our fragile waterways and its aquatic habitats.

In **Patterson**, homeowners, tenants and business owners have a tremendous influence over the quantity and quality of the stormwater or “urban runoff” discharged to our local waterways. By using the proper fertilization, mowing and watering techniques along with proper plant selection, pest management and weed controls, urban landscapes can better coexist with the City’s natural environment.

ADOPT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY OPTIONS

IRRIGATION MANAGEMENT

Proper irrigation is key to BMPs for healthy landscapes and waterways. It is estimated that we each use 25 to 50 percent of our water for lawn irrigation. Over-watering favors the growth of water-loving weeds and pests, and it also creates runoff, which carries pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers (PHF) from yards into nearby waterways.



Most irrigation problems are maintenance related, not based on design deficiencies. With nothing more than a tune-up, the vast majority of irrigation systems can generate large water savings. In some instances, adjusting how much and how long your sprinklers operate will result in significant water savings and more efficient irrigation.

- WATERING TIPS**
- 💧 **Avoid watering impervious surfaces such as your driveway and sidewalks.** Adjust sprinkler heads so that spray from sprinklers is not landing in these areas.
 - 💧 **Check sprinklers monthly to ensure heads and stalks are not in need of maintenance.** Ensure that there are no leaks when water is off .
 - 💧 **Water your lawns between the hours of 7 pm and 9 am.** Watering late at night or early morning lets the water stay on the surface longer and soak in, due to less evaporation.
 - 💧 **Add a rain shut-off device to your sprinkler system.** You may also consider a rain gauge or turn off your system when the lawn has received 3/4 to 1 inch of rain.
 - 💧 **Conserve water by using native plants.** Check with your local nursery, U. C. Davis Cooperative Extension (www.ccu.h.ucdavis.edu) or California Native Plant Society (www.cnps.org) and purchase only those plants which are native to your area. This helps to lessen the amount of water needed.
 - 💧 **Remember that overwatering creates many opportunities for fungus and disease.** Consider watering your lawn every other day in summer and twice weekly as needed in winter.

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

TO REPORT ILLEGAL DUMPING OR A CLOGGED STORM DRAIN:

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



PESTICIDE, HERBICIDE AND FERTILIZER (PHF) MANAGEMENT

While a lush green lawn looks nice, the methods used to get it have raised environmental concerns. Improper use of PHFs is a major contributor to the pollutants carried into the storm drain system when it rains or from irrigation runoff.

PHF TIPS

- 💧 **Postpone using any PHFs when more than 1 inch of rain is expected.** Never use these products in the wind or rain as they will be carried to the streets and into the storm drain system.
- 💧 **Apply PHFs using smaller applications and always according to directions.** The label is the law and helps to prevent mistakes or errors.
- 💧 **Use less toxic or alternative methods for PHFs.** Find natural predators or use products with the “less toxic” labels for your PHFs.



STORM WATER MANAGEMENT

Catch basins along the curb in the gutter and in parking lots are part of the storm drain system which carries “storm” water off these areas to prevent flooding. This runoff also carries contaminants and pollution from these streets and parking lots directly to the river without being treated.

STORM WATER TIPS

- 💧 **Properly dispose of all green waste.** Never blow or rinse lawn or landscape clippings into the street or gutter. Sweep up and place in a green waste bin.
- 💧 **Keep catch basins and gutters free of dirt, debris and vegetation.** Sweep or shovel gutters and sidewalk. Don’t rinse them down with water.
- 💧 **Never rinse off equipment into the street.** Shovels, rakes, mowers and landscaping tools should be cleaned offsite or on landscaped area.