

## 10 WAYS YOU CAN ERASE THE WASTE AND PREVENT STORM WATER POLLUTION



Storm water pollution is a serious issue in California – one that leads to water quality issues, increased health risks, neighborhood flooding, unsanitary living environments and unsafe ocean and beach conditions – as well as high costs to clean up tons of pollution each year. Storm water pollution is created when litter, fertilizers, animal waste, cigarette butts, motor oil and other contaminants left on the ground are washed or thrown directly into storm drains, where this toxic soup clogs gutters, causing neighborhood flooding and pollution of our local rivers, creeks and the Pacific Ocean.

Through the Erase the Waste storm water pollution prevention campaign, the California Water Boards encourage all California residents to take the following simple, everyday actions to improve the state's water quality:

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| <p><b>1.</b> Throw your litter in the trash can or recycling bin (as appropriate), not the street and never into the storm drain. Dispose of all trash properly – fast food wrappers, Styrofoam cups, bottles and paper – every time.</p>   | <p><b>5.</b> Take action. Organize or join in the clean up of a beach, river or community. Join with your neighbors to adopt a local park or playground and organize a clean up event. Do your part to keep your community and waterways healthy and clean and encourage others to participate. Get involved and beautify your neighborhood!</p> | <p><b>8.</b> Make it a practice to purchase non-toxic or less-toxic products for home and garden use. Dispose of all leftover toxic products at a local Household Hazardous Waste collection center. Visit <a href="http://www.earth911.org">www.earth911.org</a> to find a location near you.</p> |
| <p><b>2.</b> Always put your cigarette butts in ashtrays, not on the streets. Remember – our parks, playgrounds and beaches are not ashtrays. “Hold on to your butts” and help keep these places clean and safe.</p>  | <p><b>6.</b> Reduce, Reuse and Recycle materials whenever possible. By following the Three R's, you will be creating less waste that could end up on our streets and contribute to further storm water pollution.</p>  | <p><b>9.</b> Recycle your used motor oil and other automotive fluids by taking them to a certified used oil recycling center where it can be disposed of properly. For a location near you, visit <a href="http://www.earth911.org">www.earth911.org</a>.</p>                                      |
| <p><b>3.</b> Volunteer to take part in watershed protection. A number of local and statewide environmental groups offer ongoing opportunities for involvement in water monitoring and volunteer opportunities in watershed protection/ restoration.</p>   | <p><b>7.</b> Limit use of pesticides and fertilizers year-round – especially during the rainy season. Excess pesticides and fertilizers applied to your garden and yard will wash away in the rain, straight into the storm drain system. Apply lawn and garden chemicals sparingly and follow directions.</p>                                   | <p><b>10.</b> Rake or sweep up sidewalks and driveways, rather than hosing them down. Using a hose forces debris and chemical residues into storm drains, which can clog gutters and lead to street flooding and polluted waterways.</p>   |
| <p><b>4.</b> Pick up after your dog and dispose of waste in trash cans or the toilet. Bring extra bags on your walk to share with other pet owners. You can help cut down on the spread of disease carried by animal waste and maintain clean and healthy neighborhoods, beaches and waterways.</p> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>FIND MORE POLLUTION PREVENTION TIPS AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES ON <a href="http://WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV">WWW.WATERBOARDS.CA.GOV</a>.</b></p>   |  |