STORMWATER POLLUTANTS

Stormwater pollution results from materials and chemicals washed from streets, parking lots, gutters, and neighborhoods. Common products can pollute our stormwater if not properly managed.

- MOTOR OIL
  Identify and fix oil leaks on vehicles. Clean up drips and spills with rags and absorbent material such as kitty litter.

- PESTICIDES
  Use less harmful chemicals with proper mowing, fertilizing, and watering. Apply pesticides following product directions and only in areas that need to be treated.

- ANIMAL WASTE
  Pet waste left on the grass releases bacteria and other pollutants into our waters. Pet owners should always "Scoop the Poop!"

- SOAPS AND DETERGENTS
  Detergents may contain ingredients harmful to the environment. Use eco-friendly products on the grass if used outdoors so water doesn’t run into the street.

- YARD DEBRIS
  Yard waste can clog ditches, gulches, and storm drains which can lead to flooding. Either compost yard waste or securely bag so that excess yard waste does not enter storm drains or waterways.

WHAT IS STORMWATER?

When it rains, water runs off hard surfaces such as rooftops, roads, and parking lots. This stormwater can collect natural pollutants like sediment and man-made pollutants such as oil and fertilizer.

Eventually, the stormwater runoff can deposit the pollutants into our local streams and the ocean.

When not managed properly, stormwater can harm the environment, causing:

- **increase risk of flooding**
- **impaired water quality**
- **increased soil erosion**
- **high volumes of runoff**

SEWER SYSTEM VS. STORM DRAIN

Sewer systems and storm drain systems are different. When connected to a sewer system, water that goes down a sink or toilet flows to a wastewater treatment plant where it is treated. Stormwater that flows down driveways and roads, or into a storm drain, typically goes directly to a stream or the ocean with **NO TREATMENT**.

WHAT FLOWS INTO HERE...

...ENDS UP HERE.
Be wise with do-it-yourself car maintenance to prevent automotive toxins from polluting our precious waterways.

- Recycle used oil and oil filters.
- Use dry methods such as rags and absorbents (e.g., kitty litter) to clean up spills.
- Use an oil change box for disposal.
- Choose a work area that is easy to clean up and use plastic tarps to capture accidental releases.

When you wash your car, dirt, oils, soaps, and other substances that are rinsed off can be harmful to the environment. It’s important not to allow these pollutants to enter our streams or the ocean.

- Utilize a recycled water car wash or wash your car at home on grass.
- Use a spray gun with flow restriction and direct wash water to a vegetated area.
- Purchase environmentally-friendly cleaning products and use sparingly.
- Pour leftover soapy water down a sink.
- Don’t allow dirty water to enter a storm drain or the street.

Nutrients are essential for good plant growth, but over-application is not good for plants or the environment. Reduce the amount of contaminants entering our storm drains with proper lawn management.

- Clear leaf litter away from storm drains and remove debris before periods of heavy rain.
- Follow instructions on product labels to make sure you are applying the right amount of nutrients to your lawn.
- Consider using compost to enhance or replace fertilizers.
- Be careful not to spread fertilizer on sidewalks or driveways; sweep off of hard surfaces.

The goal of stormwater management is to reduce the discharge of pollutants into our waterways. County residents can help reduce polluted runoff by taking steps at home.

Trash and litter can end up in our streams and the ocean. Many household products may contain ingredients that are harmful to the environment if not disposed of properly.

- Throw rubbish in bins immediately after use.
- Do not dump anything down storm drains or allow wash water to enter a storm drain or street.
- Follow instructions for disposal on product labels.
- Use environmentally-friendly products.

Products such as aerosols, antifreeze, batteries, fire extinguishers, fluorescent bulbs, oil-based paints, pesticides, solvents, and thermometers are “household hazardous waste” and need to be disposed of properly. Visit the County of Maui Environmental Protection and Sustainability webpage for updates on HHW Collection events.

Want to do more?
Visit our website for more ideas on how you can extend your community impact by keeping our island waterways clean. Be sure to share this info with friends and neighbors.

Mauicounty.gov/stormwater