The Orange County Stormwater Program
Water Resources are Crucial to Orange County

Water provides recreation for Orange County residents.

It attracts tourists, boosting the local economy.

It is home to many types of wildlife.
Protecting our Water Resources is Everyone’s Responsibility

- Water quality is not just a coastal issue - it starts in all regions and affects water quality from the mountains to the ocean.
What is a Watershed?

- An area of land where the water that is under it or drains off of it goes into the same creek, river, bay, beach or ocean.
- No matter where you live, you live in a watershed!
Why is it important?

- Human activities can harm or improve the condition of a watershed, including its water quality, its fish and wildlife, its forests and other vegetation, and the quality life for people who live there.
Where does pollution come from?

- Pollutants come from a variety of sources
  - Litter
  - Automotive leaks and spills
  - Pesticides and fertilizers used on lawns
  - Pet waste
  - Leaves and lawn clippings
  - Soap and other chemicals
What is Stormwater?

- Stormwater runoff refers to seasonal rainfall flows. During heavy rainstorms, large volumes of water drain off paved areas picking up pollutants while flowing to a storm drain.

- Once stormwater runoff enters the storm drain, it flows downstream to the nearest body of water.
What is Urban Runoff?

• Urban runoff is water from irrigation, overwatering, car washing and other sources that travel into the street picking up pollutants while flowing to the storm drain.

• Once urban runoff enters the storm drain, it goes directly into the nearest body of water.
Storm Drains Are Not Sewers

- Storm drains are separate from the sanitary sewer system; unlike water in the sanitary sewers (sinks and toilets) water in storm drains is not treated before entering our waterways.
How Is Your City/County Helping to Prevent Pollutants from Entering Our Creeks, Rivers, Bays, Beaches and Ocean
Public Service Announcements (PSAs)

- Three PSAs have been created regarding pollution prevention.
- The PSAs run on cable stations and in movie theaters throughout the County.
A variety of brochures have been created to educate the public about the impacts of urban runoff and stormwater pollution.

These brochures are distributed at city halls, municipal facilities, and retail stores such as Home Depot and Petsmart.

Brochures can be viewed or ordered by visiting www.ocwatersheds.com
Bus Backs

- Bus backs have been used to advertise our stormwater pollution prevention message.
- Bus backs are seen more than 33 million times each year
Print Ads

- Six print advertisements have been created and placed in dozens of Orange County newspapers.
- Print advertisements are seen more than 13 million times per year.
How Can You Help Prevent Pollutants at Work and Home from Entering Our Creeks, Rivers, Bays, Beaches and Ocean
Litter

- **Do** properly dispose of litter in a trashcan. It is one of the easiest and most beneficial ways to prevent water pollution.
- **Do** pick up litter in your yard, street, office and neighborhood and put it in a trashcan.
- **Do** recycle.
- **Never** litter.
Lawn Care

- **Do** limit the amount of pesticides and fertilizer used.
- **Do** monitor your sprinklers to prevent overwatering.
- **Never** allow excess water from your yard to flow into the street, gutter or storm drain.
Leaves and Trimmings

- **Do** sweep all clippings with a broom and dispose of them in a green waste bin.
- **Never** use your hose to wash away leaves and trimmings.
Automotive Leaks

- **Do** use a mat or metal pan under the vehicle to collect oil.
- If a leak or spill occurs, **do** use cat litter to soak up the liquid, then sweep up the litter and dispose of it in a trashcan.
- **Never** wash away car fluids such as oil with a hose.
Motor Oil

• **Do** take all used oil to a certified used oil collection center or household hazardous waste collection center for recycling.

• **Never** dump automotive fluids down the storm drain.
Car Washing

- If possible, take your car to a commercial carwash.
- **Do** consider using non-toxic, biodegradable soap when washing your car at home.
- **Do** divert washwater to a landscaped area.
- **Never** let soap suds enter the storm drain.
Pools and Spas

- **Do** dispose of used pool water in the sanitary sewer or dechlorinate the water before draining.
  - Water can be dechlorinated by purchasing chemicals at a pool supply store, or simply refrain from using chlorine in a pool for a few days prior to draining the water.
- **Never** pour chlorinated water down the storm drain.

*Ordinances Vary By City*
Conclusion

Water Quality is Your Responsibility

The Ocean Begins at Your Front Door
Thank You