Ocean Pollution Prevention: It's Up to Us!

Hermosa Beach has two drainage systems – the sewers and the storm drains. The sewer system takes waste from homes and businesses to a treatment plant before discharging to the ocean. The storm drain system is designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets out to the ocean.

Rain water mixed with urban pollutants may create stormwater pollution. Urban runoff pollution may also flow to the ocean through the storm drain system. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates the ocean, closes beaches, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of inland flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

In Hermosa Beach, there are many miles of pipes that would take similar pollutants straight to the ocean. Each day many gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean untreated, leaving toxic chemicals in our surf and tons of trash on our beaches.

This pamphlet has been put together to inform you how to prevent ocean pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

These Best Management Practices (BMPs) will help ensure a cleaner ocean and city.

Spill Response Agencies:

City of Hermosa Beach
Department of Public Works
(310) 318-0212

City of Hermosa Beach
Police Department
(310) 318-0317

Hermosa Beach Fire Department
(310) 376-2479

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal:

City of Hermosa Beach
Department of Public Works
(310) 318-0212

Los Angeles County Sanitation District
(562) 699-7411
www.lacsd.org

To Report Illegal Dumping:

City of Hermosa Beach
Department of Public Works
(310) 318-0212

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
(888) CLEAN-LA

To Report a Clogged Catch Basin:

City of Hermosa Beach
Department of Public Works
(310) 318-0212

Los Angeles County
Department of Public Works
(626) 458-HELP

This brochure is one of a series of pamphlets regarding storm drain pollution prevention measures. Other pamphlets include:

Food Service Industry

Automotive Maintenance & Car Care

Fresh Concrete & Mortar Application

General Construction & Site Supervision

Heavy Equipment & Earth-Moving Activities

Landscaping, Gardening & Pest Control

Painting

Roadwork & Paving

For more information about storm drain pollution prevention or additional brochures, call:

City of Hermosa Beach
Department of Public Works
(310) 318-0212
http://hermosabch.org/
or visit
www.888cleanla.com

John L. Hunter and Associates
Home Repair & Remodeling BMP brochure 9/28/00

Stormwater

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

Home Repair & Remodeling

Homeowners

Do-It-Yourself Remodelers

Do-It-Yourself Painters

Do-It-Yourself Landscapers

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Household toxics – such as common household cleaners, paint products and motor oil – can pollute the ocean and poison the groundwater if not disposed of as hazardous waste.

Dispose of your household chemicals and toxics at a local Household Hazardous Waste Roundup instead of putting them into the trash, dumping them on the ground, street, down the sink or into a gutter, or storm drain.

Call the Los Angeles County Household Hazardous Waste Department (800) 238-0172 to find out when a neighborhood roundup event will take place in your community.

Concrete & Masonry

Fresh concrete and mortar application can wash down or blow into the street, gutter or storm drain, posing a hazard to sea life and humans.

Don't mix up more fresh concrete or cement than you will use.

Store bags of cement and plaster under cover, protected from rainfall, runoff, wind, and away from gutters and storm drains.

Never dispose of cement washout or concrete dust onto driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.

Painting

All paints and solvents contain chemicals that are harmful to sea life. Therefore, it is especially important to prevent these chemicals from entering storm drains. Toxic chemicals can come from liquid, solid products or cleaning residues on rags.

PAINT CLEANUP:

Never clean brushes or rinse paint containers into a street, gutter or storm drain.

For oil-based paints, paint out brushes as much as possible. Clean with thinner and then filter and reuse thinner.

For water-based paints, paint out brushes as much as possible, then rinse in the sink.

Thoroughly dry used brushes, empty paint cans (lids off), rags and drop cloths, which may be disposed of as trash.

PAINT REMOVAL:

Chemical paint stripping residue, including saturated rags, is a hazardous waste and should be disposed of properly. For information, call Los Angeles County Sanitation District at (562) 699-7411.

Chips and dust from marine paints or paints containing lead or tin are also hazardous wastes. Sweep them up and call the Los Angeles County Sanitation District for disposal instruction at (562) 699-7411.

PAINT RECYCLING:

Reuse leftover paint for touch-ups or recycle at household hazardous waste collection event, where it will be recycled or donated to a local graffiti paint-out program.

Landscaping & Gardening

Intensive gardening and landscaping increase the likelihood that garden chemicals and soil will wash into storm drains. Pesticides and herbicides not only kill garden invaders, they also contaminate ground and ocean water which will harm and poison fish. Here are some instructions you can follow:

- Use organic or non-toxic fertilizers and pesticides.
- Do not fertilize or use pesticides near ditches, gutters or storm drains.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals in a covered area to prevent runoff.
- Do not blow, sweep or rake leaves into the street, gutter or storm drain.
- Conserve water by using drip irrigation, soaker hoses, or micro-spray systems.

Construction

Sediment from excavation and other construction projects, is the most common pollutant washed from worksites. Sediment entering the ocean through storm drains harms sea life and disrupts the food chain upon which both fish and people depend upon.

GENERAL PRACTICES

Keep all construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drain. Look for and clean up material that may have traveled away from your property.

Keep materials out of the rain by storing them indoors or outdoors with a secure roof or plastic sheeting.

EROSION CONTROL

Schedule grading and excavation projects for dry weather.

Cover excavated material and stockpiles of asphalt, sand, etc., with plastic tarps.

Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annuals and perennial grasses. These will shield and bind the soil.

RECYCLE

Use a crushing company to recycle cement, asphalt and porcelain rather than taking them to a landfill. Call (562) 699-7411 for information.