

Protect Our Bay and Ocean!



**“Only Rain
in the
Storm Drain”**

Did you know that...

Every time you wash oils, antifreeze, soapy water, brake dust, and other debris into the street, these pollutants flow into storm drains and end up in the San Francisco Bay or Pacific Ocean? These pollutants contaminate our local creeks, the Bay, and ocean and are hazardous to humans, fish, and other wildlife.

In San Mateo County, water that runs off sidewalks, alleys, and street gutters flows into storm drains. Anything entering storm drains flows directly to the Bay or ocean without treatment. This is different from sanitary sewers (sinks, toilets, etc.) that flow to a waste water treatment plant!

DON'Ts

Don't wash vehicles, engines, wheels, and parts outdoors where washwater and debris flow into storm drains – **even if you use biodegradable soap.**



Don't allow leaves or debris to accumulate. Never hose down pavements and other wastes into the street, storm drains, or sanitary sewer.



Don't hose down accidental spills, fluid drips, or allow leaks to accumulate or run across surfaces.

Never allow accidental discharges to enter storm drains or the sanitary sewer.



Don't store leaky vehicles or equipment outdoors. Never leave oil, antifreeze, or other materials in drip pans or open containers.



Don't perform activities outdoors that might result in fluid spills (i.e., oil changing or radiator work) or generate small particles and dust (i.e., grinding or sanding).



DOs:

Do!

Wash vehicles, engines, and parts in a designated area. The wash area must be covered, paved, bermed, and drain to the sanitary sewer through an oil/water separator. Alternatively, take vehicles to a commercial car wash.



Do!

Keep your facility clean. Sweep or vacuum work area after each shift and properly dispose of wastes.



Sweep parking lots and storage areas weekly.

Always

Clean up spills promptly with a rag, absorbents, or wet/dry vacuum. If water or cleansers are needed, spot mop area and dispose of washwater as hazardous waste.

Do!

Drain fluids from leaking or wrecked vehicles. Store fluids or wastes indoors or in closed, labeled containers with proper secondary containment.



Do!

Perform all maintenance and repair work indoors. Clean brake dust off with damp towels or use a HEPA filter vacuum. Collect all dust from brakes and dispose of it as hazardous wastes or recycle as scrap metal.



Do!

Stencil storm drains with “NO DUMPING, FLOWS TO BAY OR OCEAN” and post warning signs prohibiting discharges. Train employees to use these guidelines. To obtain markers contact www.flowstobay.org



Remember...
in San Mateo County it is **illegal** to allow any pollutants to enter storm drains. By following these practices, you can help avoid local code violations and protect the environment.

To report illegal discharges, please call (650) 363-4305 or contact your local police department.

SAN MATEO COUNTYWIDE
Water Pollution Prevention Program
Clean Water. Healthy Community.
www.flowstobay.org

A program of City/County Association of Governments of San Mateo County

