

**Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals, and people.**

- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment can also destroy aquatic habitat.



- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms. When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.
- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into beach areas and create health hazards, possibly making beach closures necessary.
- Debris such as plastic bags, cigarette butts, fast food wrappers when washed into waterbodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish and birds.



- Household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides, paint, solvents, used motor oil, and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shellfish or ingesting polluted water.
- Polluted stormwater often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can affect human health and increase drinking water treatment costs.

# STORMWATER POLLUTION

## You can help. . .

### LAWN CARE

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and plants, wash off and pollute streams. In addition, yard clippings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute nutrients and organic matter to the estuary, bay and ocean.

- Don't over water your lawn. Consider using a soaker hose or a sprinkler with a timer.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, apply these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Use organic mulch and safer pest control methods whenever possible.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains.



### AUTO CARE

Washing your car and degreasing auto parts at home can send detergents and other contaminants to the estuary, bay, and ocean.

- Use a commercial car wash where the wash water goes into the sanitary sewer or is recycled.
- Repair leaks and dispose of used auto fluids and batteries at designated drop-off recycling locations.

### Household Hazardous Waste Facility

160 Atascadero Rd

Phone Number 481-9213

Hours of operation: Saturday 11-3

#### Items accepted:

Paint, antifreeze, household cleaners, yard pesticides, automotive products.

**Call for a complete list, or visit them on the web**

[www.iwma.com/tabhaz.html](http://www.iwma.com/tabhaz.html)

### Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Put the pet waste in the trash; do not flush your pets waste. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drains and eventually into our estuary, bay, and ocean.



*Este informe contiene información importante sobre agua de lluvia. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien.*

**Stormwater runoff** occurs when precipitation from rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.



**Stormwater runoff is a problem** because it can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants flowing into a storm drain or street and eventually into the bay, estuary, and ocean. Anything that enters a storm drain is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing, and admiring.

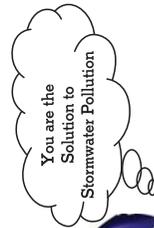


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Sammy the Steelhead

# Stormwater Pollution Solutions



**City of Morro Bay**  
*Department of Public Services*

955 SHASTA AVENUE  
MORRO BAY, CA 93442

**Stormwater Team**  
**805-772-6261**

[www.morro-bay.ca.us/stormwater](http://www.morro-bay.ca.us/stormwater)