



City of Davis Public Works Department

1717 Fifth Street Davis, CA 95616

530-757-5686 FAX: 530-758-4738

Environmental column

September 14, 2007

By Jennifer Gilbert, Conservation Coordinator for the City of Davis

POLLUTION PREVENT WEEK

September 17-23 is National Pollution Prevention Week! Help kick off this important week by getting involved early and participate in local habitat restoration and clean up events. The annual California Coast and Creek Clean-Up Day is Saturday, September 15th. Join over 60,000 California volunteers by participating in the clean-up of local waterways. For more information regarding local clean up sites contact John McNerney at 530-757-5680 or jmcnerney@cityofdavis.org.

You can prevent pollution of our local creeks and waterways by following these simple tips:

- Avoid using toxic products outdoors. If you must use pesticides or fertilizers, do so carefully and sparingly. Do not apply them if rain is expected as stormwater will wash them into the ponds and creeks.
- Never sweep or hose yard waste into gutters or storm drains.
- When you change your oil on your car, take the used oil to a free oil collection center in Davis. Visit www.davisrecycling.org or call 757-5686 to find a location near you.
- Take your car to a car wash facility or have the wash water flow into your landscape to prevent soapy water from running off of your property and into the storm drain.
- Pick up and dispose of animal wastes in the garbage so that animal waste is not washed into the stormwater drain.
- Bathe dogs to drown fleas. Use a dog shampoo and increase effectiveness by using a flea comb while the pet is lathered. It is not necessary to use shampoo with insecticide.
- Use kitty litter or another absorbent material to clean spills of paint, cleaners, solvents and other toxic products.
- Clean painting tools in the sink rather than outside onto the sidewalk or in the street.
- If you have a pool or spa, never clean the filter in the street or near a storm drain. Instead, rinse cartridge filters onto a dirt area and spade filter residue into your soil.

DON'T TOSS THAT CARDBOARD!

The hectic yearly turnover is over; if you are unpacking, please help us reduce waste by recycling and reusing your packing materials. Please do not throw cardboard in the trash. Flatten and stack cardboard boxes next to the recycling carts and Davis Waste Removal will pick it up for recycling. Bring your bubble wrap to The UPS Store, Pakmail or Parcel Dispatch PDQ for reuse. These three stores and Postmarks also accept polystyrene packing peanuts for reuse. Always be sure to call ahead to ensure that they are not overloaded and will take your stuff before dropping it off!

FREE HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP-OFF EVENT

Don't miss this month's free household hazardous waste (HHW) drop-off events today and tomorrow, September 14th & 15th from 9:00am to 2:00pm at the Yolo County Central Landfill! Bring in your paints, pesticides, fluorescent light bulbs, household cleaners, expired medicines and more for FREE and safe disposal. Mark your calendar for the HHW drop-off dates next month, October 12th and 13th from 9:00am to 2:00pm.

Check out the reuse opportunities at the landfill as well! During each HHW drop-off event and the following Saturday all the reusable things collected from the HHW drop-off are available for FREE! Stop by the landfill during a HHW drop-off event or September 15th from 9:00-11:00 am to take your pick of free paints, fertilizers, household cleaners and more!

For more information, visit www.davisrecycling.org or email me at PWweb@cityofdavis.org.