

# Stormwater Pollution Prevention

*Only rain down the storm drain*

## What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up pollutants as it flows over roofs, driveways, lawns and streets.

## Where does it go?

In Davis, stormwater runoff flows directly from streets and storm drains into local ponds and waterways, then out to wetlands. Stormwater is not treated at the wastewater treatment plant before entering the Yolo Bypass and flowing to the Sacramento River. This water is used downstream for agriculture, recreation and even drinking water.

## What is litter and why is it a problem?

Litter is **waste** (trash or recycling) that is not contained in a waste bin. Litter is a serious stormwater pollutant and it can easily end up in waterways and make its way to the ocean. Both aquatic and land animals mistake small pieces of plastic as food and can become sick or die from the toxins attached to the plastics or die of starvation from plastic blocking their digestive tracts. Plastic also poses entanglement risks for wildlife.

## We can all help prevent waste from ending up as litter. Here's how you can help:

- Always pick up litter when you drop it.
- Keep lids on trash, recycling and organics bins closed to keep rainwater out and to prevent wind from blowing waste out of the bin.
- Keep waste secured inside vehicles so it won't blow out when a door or window is opened.
- Never place loose waste in the back of a vehicle with an open bed.
- If you can't find a trash or recycling bin, hold on to your waste until you find one.



**Our actions can cause pollution when anything other than clean rainwater goes down a storm drain.**



**Preventing pollution is a job for all of us.**

Preventing litter and other pollutants from entering our storm drains can protect wildlife and humans alike.

## Common stormwater pollutants:

- Litter
- Chlorinated pool water
- Pet waste
- Dirt
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Yard trimmings
- Soaps and detergents



# Please keep our communities clean.

Follow these tips to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains!

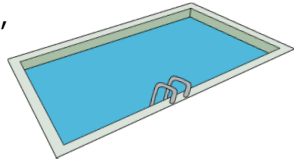
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**Keep lids on waste bins closed at all times to keep rainwater out and to prevent wind from blowing waste out of the bin.** Do not remove the lids on trash dumpsters or prop them open against the waste enclosure wall.



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**Drain pool water into the sewer.** Pool water can become a stormwater pollutant when it is green, brown, white, contains chemicals or comes from a saltwater pool.



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**Dispose of hazardous wastes safety.** Residents can use the free Household Hazardous Waste Drop-Off at the Yolo landfill every Thursday, Friday and Saturday from 7:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. For businesses that have hazardous waste, disposal options are available as well through the County's business hazardous waste program. For details, visit [www.YoloCounty.org/Landfill](http://www.YoloCounty.org/Landfill).



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**Use pesticides only if necessary and according to the instructions.** Look for the Our Water Our World logo in local stores, or visit [OurWaterOurWorld.org](http://OurWaterOurWorld.org) to find less toxic products.



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**Use only dry clean-up methods, never wash, sweep or blow anything into the street or storm drain.** Place yard debris into your organics cart.



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**Pick up after pets and dispose of pet waste in the trash bin.** Pet waste should never be placed in the organics bin or in yard material piles in the street. Pet waste can contain bacteria and can be a harmful source of stormwater pollution, so it needs to be picked up.



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**Wash vehicles at the car wash.** Car washes have oil/water separators that help to recycle wash water and send dirty wash water to the sewer to be cleaned. When cars are washed in driveways and parking lots, the dirty wash water and oil flows down the gutter and out to wetlands. If you wouldn't want that dirty water in your fish tank, it shouldn't go down the storm drain!



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**Keep vehicles leak free.** For more information on the proper disposal of automotive fluids and other hazardous wastes, visit [DavisRecycling.org](http://DavisRecycling.org).

