

is closer than you think.

Can you find the activities in the picture that contribute to water pollution?
How do these every day activities result in pollutants entering the storm drains?

You can help prevent storm drain pollution and protect creeks, wetlands, and the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary by following the suggestions below.

Automotive



RECYCLE used motor oil (for free) by taking it to an auto parts store, hazardous waste collection site or using curbside recycling pickup. When changing your car's oil, prevent spills by placing cardboard under the oil pan. Use absorbent material such as kitty litter to clean up spills. Never pour used motor oil down storm drains, on the ground, or driveways. Call recycling numbers on back.



RECYCLE your car's antifreeze. Call the recycling numbers listed on back. Never drain antifreeze directly onto the ground or street. It is poisonous to pets and wildlife which are attracted to its sweet smell and taste.



WASH cars on unpaved surfaces, or at a commercial car wash. Leftover soapy water should be poured down a household sink or toilet (to be treated by a sewage plant), not the driveway, gutter, street, or storm drain which lead directly to the bay without treatment.



INSPECT and maintain your car regularly to prevent leakage of oil, antifreeze, and other toxic fluids. Use a drip tray to catch leaks where your car is parked.



REDUCE automobile pollution by carpooling, walking, riding your bike, or using public transportation.

Household & Home Maintenance



KEEP as much of your property landscaped as possible. Planted areas absorb more rainwater and help water percolate into the ground. Bare soil promotes water runoff. As an alternative to concrete driveways, use paving bricks, which help reduce runoff.



TAKE unwanted chemicals like paint and pesticides to your local hazardous waste collection site. Use non-toxic household products, if possible. When using toxic products follow directions carefully and use sparingly. Properly store toxic products away from children. Never dump chemicals down storm drains, ditches, gutters, or waterways. Call the recycling numbers listed on the back.



RINSE paint brushes in the sink when using water-based latex paint. Avoid using oil-based paint. Recycle paint thinner by pouring a small amount into a sealable glass jar, cleaning brushes, and allowing paint solids to settle. Then pour clean paint thinner back into its original container. Dispose of unused paint, varnishes and solvents at the household hazardous waste collection site. Call recycling numbers on back.



CONTROL erosion at construction sites, by preventing dirt and debris from entering gutters and storm drains. Use hay bales as a silt fence to prevent runoff. When pouring concrete, keep runoff away from storm drains and waterways as it is harmful to fish.

Lawn & Garden



USE non-toxic alternatives to pesticides and organic gardening techniques when possible. Plant native California species which need less water than imported varieties. Use herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Follow label instructions carefully. Do not apply products if rain is forecast. Never dump chemicals in ditches, gutters, storm drains, or waterways. Never use motor oil to kill weeds along fences and in yards. Motor oil poured in soil contaminates water. Take unwanted toxic products to local hazardous waste collection sites. Call the recycling numbers on back.



SWEEP driveways, patios, and sidewalks rather than hosing them down into the gutters and storm drains. Put lawn clippings and leaves in a compost pile or garbage can.



WATER only your garden and lawn, not your driveways and sidewalks. Divert garden hoses and rain spouts away from paved surfaces to reduce water runoff from entering storm drains. Consider using a rain barrel to collect water for flower bed and lawn watering.



PICK up all pet waste regularly and dispose of in the trash can, not down the storm drain. Cat waste disposed of in the toilet can harm endangered sea otters.

The leading cause of oil spills in the ocean is NOT from tanker accidents, it's from citizens. Nationwide every year 350 million gallons of oil is discarded in storm drains, waterways, and soil. This is 30 times greater than the largest tanker spill!

INFORMATION SOURCES

For local motor oil collection centers, household hazardous waste disposal locations, or recycling center nearest you or throughout California, call the free California Environmental Hotline at:

(800) CLEAN-UP or visit www.CLEANUP.org

Please do not mix used motor oil with antifreeze, transmission fluid, gasoline, or other contaminants.

OTHER HELPFUL CONTACTS:

City of Carmel	(831) 624-3543
City of Del Rey Oaks	(831) 394-8511
City of Marina	(831) 884-1212
City of Monterey	(831) 646-3921
City of Pacific Grove	(831) 648-5722
City of Salinas	(831) 424-5520
City of Sand City	(831) 373-1333
City of Santa Cruz	(831) 420-5160
City of Seaside	(831) 899-6825
City of Watsonville	(831) 768-3133
Marin County	(415) 499-7868
Monterey County (Marina Landfill)	(831) 384-5313
San Benito County	(831) 636-4110
San Luis Obispo County	(805) 782-8530
San Mateo County	(650) 363-4718
Santa Cruz County	(831) 454-2606
Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary	(831) 647-4201
Pebble Beach Company	(831) 625-8402

Get involved! Volunteer in monitoring the health of local waters flowing into the Monterey Bay. Contact the **Sanctuary Citizen Monitoring Network** www.montereybay.noaa.gov (831) 647-4201

For FREE stormwater and ocean related school outreach programs around the Monterey Bay call the **Stormwater & Education Alliance (SEA)** www.montereysea.org (831) 899-9957 or the **Sanctuary** (831) 647-4201

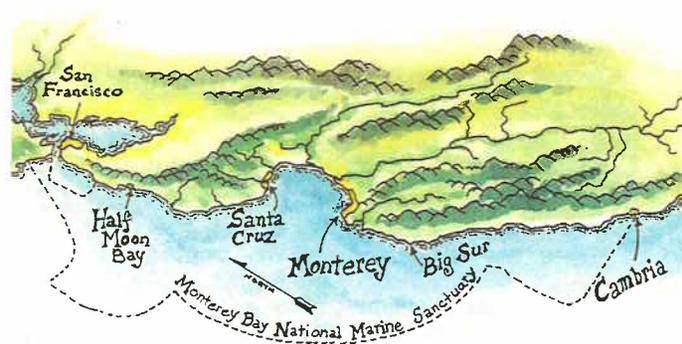
Special thanks to editor Maris Sidenstecker, the City of Arcata Environmental Services Department, City of Eureka Utilities Department, Santa Clara Valley Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program, and artist Gary Bloomfield.

Printed on recycled paper with soy based ink

Monterey Bay Begins on Your Street



Help prevent pollution of Monterey Bay waters



MONTEREY BAY is the nation's largest Marine Sanctuary, encompassing over 5,300 square miles along the Central California coast from Marin County near San Francisco southward to Cambria in San Luis Obispo County. The Sanctuary protects many habitats, ranging from sand flats along the shoreline to the nation's most extensive kelp forests and one of the world's largest underwater canyons. Surrounding wetlands provide nursery grounds for juvenile fish, help protect against flooding and improve water quality by filtering out harmful pollutants. Nutrient-rich currents nourish the area, supporting a productive and diverse marine ecosystem where countless species, many of them threatened or endangered, make their homes.