



CITY OF LAGUNA HILLS REQUIREMENTS FOR HOME AND GARDEN CARE ACTIVITIES

HOME CARE

Many hazardous materials may be used in and around residences during routine maintenance activities (such as: oils, paints, cleaners, bleaches, pesticides, glues, solvents, and other products). Improper or excessive use of these products can increase the potential for pollutants to be transported to the storm drain by runoff. The pollution prevention activities outlined in this fact sheet should be used to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system.

Think before conducting home care activities. Remember - *The ocean starts at your front door.*

Required Activities

- Clean out painting equipment in an area where the waste can be contained and properly disposed of (preferably into the sewer). Use a sink connected to the sewer to clean brushes, rollers, etc. It is illegal to wash out paint in the gutter, street, or any other area, which ultimately drains to the storm drain system. Note: oil based paints/products should be disposed of at a household hazardous waste center.
- Rinse off cement mixers and cement laden tools in a contained washout area. Dispose of dried concrete waste in household trash.
- If safe, contain, clean up, and properly dispose all household hazardous waste spills. If an unsafe condition exists, call 911 to activate the proper response team.
- Household hazardous materials must be stored indoors or under cover, and in closed and labeled containers. Dispose of them at a household hazardous waste center.
- Household wash waters (e.g. washer machine effluent, mop water, etc.) must be disposed of in the sanitary sewer.
- Pool and spa water may be discharged to the storm drain if residual chlorine is less than 0.1 mg/L, the pH is between 6.5 and 8.5, and the water is free from any unusual coloration and filter media. Pool filter media must be contained and disposed of properly.

Recommended Activities

- Only purchase the types and amounts of materials needed.
- Share unused portions of products with neighbors or community programs (latex paint)

GARDEN CARE

Garden activities may contribute pollutants via soil erosion, green waste, fertilizer and pesticide use. Plant and garden care activities such as landscape maintenance, fertilization, and pesticide application have the potential to discharge significant quantities of pollutants to the storm drain system. Non-vegetated surfaces may allow for significant erosion leading to high sediment loads. Other pollutants such as pesticides may adsorb into the soil particles and be transported off site. Excess fertilizer and pesticide pollutants from over application may be carried to the storm drain by dissolving in irrigation runoff or rainwater. Green wastes may also contain organic matter and may have adsorbed fertilizers and pesticides.

Excessive irrigation is often the most significant factor in home and garden care activities. Pollutants may dissolve in irrigation water and then be transported to the storm drain, or particles and materials coated with fertilizers and pesticides may be suspended in the irrigation flow and carried to the storm drain. The pollution prevention activities outlined in this fact sheet should be used to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system.

Think before conducting garden care activities. Remember - *The ocean starts at your front door.*

Required Activities

- Irrigation systems must be properly adjusted to reflect seasonal water needs.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Read the labels and follow directions to avoid improper use. Do not apply chemicals if it is windy or about to rain.
- Properly clean up and dispose of spills of gardening chemicals, fertilizers, or soils. If possible, return the spilled material to the container for future use. **Never** use a hose to wash down spills into the gutter.
- Lawn and garden care products must be stored in closed labeled containers, in covered areas, or off-ground and under protective tarps.
- Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed at a household hazardous waste center.
- Cover non-vegetated surfaces to prevent erosion.

Recommended Activities

- Use drought and insect resistant landscaping.
- Cultivate garden often to control weeds
- Use integrated pest management (IPM). Planting pest repelling plants (e.g. Marigolds) or using pest eating insects (e.g. ladybugs) may reduce the need for pesticides.
- Do not leave food (human or pet) outside overnight
- Remove fruit and garden waste