



For more information,  
please call the  
**Orange County Stormwater Program**  
at (714) 567-6363  
or visit  
[www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com)

To report a spill,  
call the  
**Orange County 24-Hour  
Water Pollution Problem  
Reporting Hotline**  
at (714) 567-6363.

**For emergencies, dial 911.**

The tips contained in this brochure provide useful information to help prevent water pollution. If you have other suggestions, please contact your city's stormwater representatives or call the Orange County Stormwater Program.



Printed on Recycled Paper

Help Prevent Ocean Pollution:

## Tips for Residential Pool, Landscape and Hardscape Drains



The Ocean Begins  
at Your Front Door



# Tips for Residential Pool, Landscape and Hardscape Drains

## Pool Maintenance

All pool water discharged to the curb, gutter or permitted pool drain from your property must meet the following water quality criteria:

- The residual chlorine does not exceed 0.1 mg/L (parts per million).
- The pH is between 6.5 and 8.5.
- The water is free of any unusual coloration.
- There is no discharge of filter media or acid cleaning wastes.



Some cities have ordinances that do not allow pool water to be discharged to the storm drain. Check with your city.

## Landscape and Hardscape Drains

The following recommendations will help reduce or prevent pollutants from your landscape and hardscape drains from entering the street, gutter or storm drain. Unlike water that enters the sewer (from sinks and toilets), water that enters a landscape or hardscape drain is not treated before entering our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.

## Household Activities

- Do not rinse spills of materials or chemicals to any drain.
- Use dry cleanup methods such as applying cat litter or another absorbent material, then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash. If the material is hazardous, dispose of it at a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center (HHWCC). For locations, call (714) 834-6752 or visit [www.oilandfills.com](http://www.oilandfills.com).
- Do not hose down your driveways, sidewalks or patios to your landscape or hardscape drain. Sweep up debris and dispose of it in the trash.
- Always pick up after your pet. Flush waste down the toilet or dispose of it in the trash.

- Do not store items such as cleaners, batteries, automotive fluids, paint products, TVs, or computer monitors uncovered outdoors. Take them to a HHWCC for disposal.

## Yard Maintenance

- Do not overwater. Water by hand or set automated irrigation systems to reflect seasonal water needs.
- Follow directions on pesticides and fertilizers (measure, do not estimate amounts) and do not use if rain is predicted within 48 hours.
- Cultivate your garden often to control weeds and reduce the need to use chemicals.



## Vehicle Maintenance

- Never pour oil or antifreeze down your landscape or hardscape drain. Recycle these substances at a service station, a waste collection center or used oil recycling center. For locations, contact the Used Oil Program at **1-800-CLEANUP** or visit [www.CLEANUP.org](http://www.CLEANUP.org).
- Whenever possible, take your vehicle to a commercial car wash.
- If you do wash your vehicle at home, do not allow the washwater to go down your landscape or hardscape drain. Instead, dispose of it in the sanitary sewer (a sink or toilet) or onto an absorbent surface such as your lawn.
- Use a spray nozzle that will shut off the water when not in use.

