

There is a big difference between a **Sanitary Sewer** and the **Storm Drain System**.

The sewer system takes all wastewater from toilets, sinks and showers to a wastewater treatment facility in San Diego. There, the water is treated before it is discharged into coastal waters.

The storm drain system, on the other hand, is designed to carry rainwater from city streets and urban areas to prevent flooding. Unfortunately, chemicals, oil, trash and other debris that have been spilled—either accidentally or intentionally—can also enter the storm drain system. From here they enter pipelines that are not connected to the sanitary sewer system. The water from the storm drains then flows untreated into San Diego Bay—causing large amounts of pollution.



The mouth of Chollas Creek after a rain. Collectively, stormwater and the runoff from businesses and residences in our watersheds deposit several tons of plastics and substantial amounts of other toxic substances into the Bay each year.

Dumping of wastes into the streets and in the storm drain system is one of the largest contributors of water pollution in the country – **and it is against the law.**

Port of San Diego

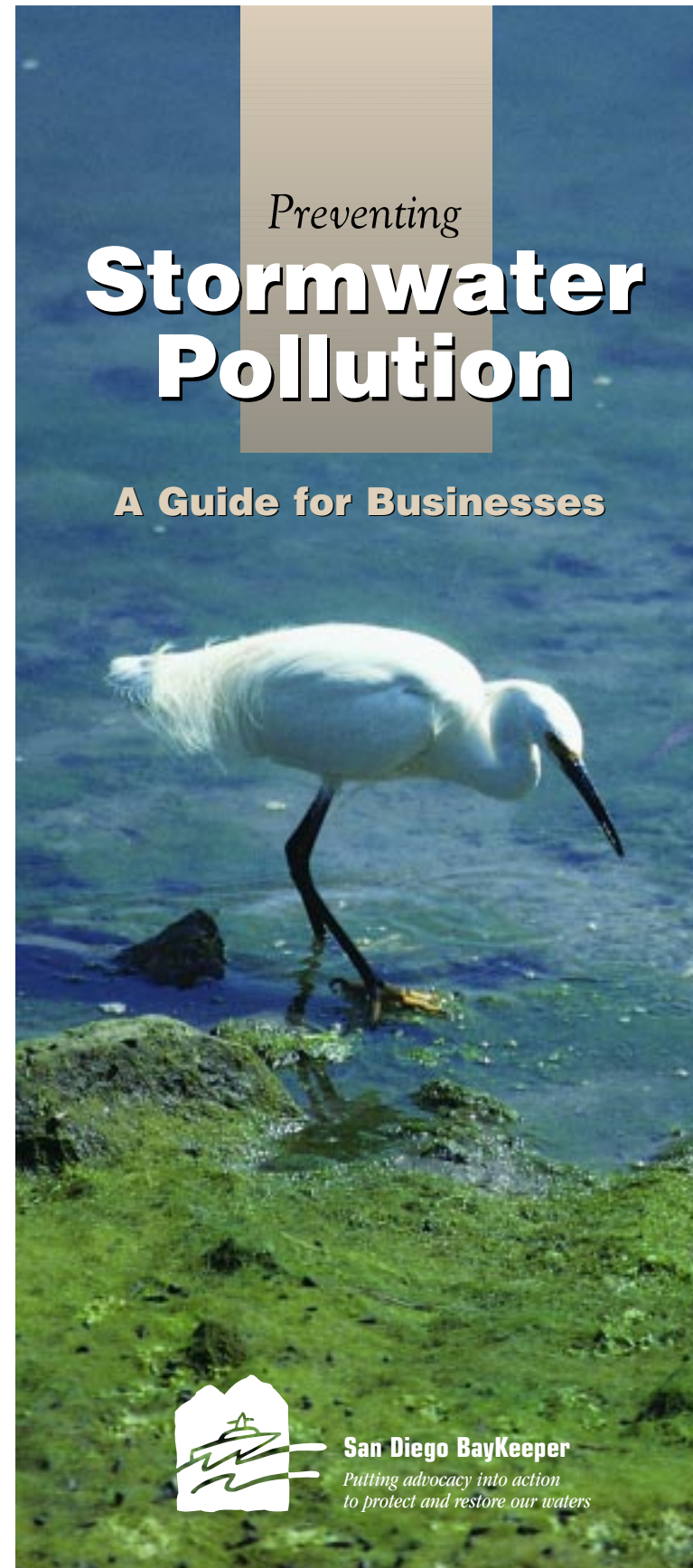
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02/02

Preventing **Stormwater Pollution**

A Guide for Businesses



San Diego BayKeeper
Putting advocacy into action
to protect and restore our waters

Urban stormwater runoff is considered the **biggest contributor** to coastal water pollution.



Whether your business is two blocks or 20 miles from the Bay, it can be a contributor to pollution in San Diego Bay.

San Diego Bay contributes greatly to our local economy by helping sustain our maritime and recreational industries, and also provides a home to marine mammals, sea turtles and over 600 species of fish, birds and invertebrates—many of which are rare or endangered.

Your business can help enhance San Diego Bay by adopting **Best Management Practices (BMPs)**—simple, inexpensive and environmentally friendly ways to prevent pollution. With a new municipal stormwater permit now in place, it is more important than ever to make sure your business complies with stormwater regulations.



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What can your business do to help?



General Pollution Prevention

The following are **BMPs** that can be implemented by any business or light industrial practice.

- Train employees on good housekeeping practices and the importance of pollution prevention.
- Sweep up trash instead of using a hose.
- Use non-toxic products for cleaning and gardening maintenance. Avoid using pesticides, and herbicides by looking into alternative pest control methods (www.panna.org).
- Never dispose of ANY wastewater down the storm drain. Use the sewer or local recycling center.
- Wash your vehicle(s) at a car wash that recycles water (ask your carwash if they do).
- Carpool with co-workers and make sure vehicles are maintained to avoid leaks.
- Maintain a clean and orderly working environment (keep your property free of trash, oil, grease, etc).
- Inform employees of materials that can be recycled and those that have a special disposal requirement. Identify and label containers.
- Keep materials to be recycled separate from wastes.
- Stencil storm drain inlets and catch basins with a "No Dumping" message and inspect and maintain them regularly as needed.

Who to Contact



Water sampling near Shelter Island

Misuse of storm drains:
City of SD Stormwater Program (619) 235-1000; or
Port of San Diego (619) 686-6254

Dumping of fuel and other hazardous substances in storm drains: 911

Report a spill or discharge into San Diego Bay:
Coast Guard (619) 295-3121
Harbor Police (619) 686-6272

Recycling Hotline:
(800) 237-2583

Non-Toxic Products:
(800) 246-1233

Hazardous Waste Disposal:
County Hazardous Materials Duty Specialist (619) 338-2231

Internet Information Resources:

- BMPs:** www.bmpdatabase.org
- Government:** www.thinkbluesd.org
www.projectcleanwater.org
www.swrcb.ca.gov/rwqcb9
- Pesticides:** www.panna.org
- Business:** www.epa.gov/owow/nps/

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Restaurants

Pollutants of concern: *detergents, disinfectants, insecticides, oil and grease.* When possible, treat oil and grease as a solid waste to be carried out with the trash. Avoid letting oil/grease spill—clean with absorbent material (kitty litter) rather than wash away with a hose. Use non-toxic substitutes for chemicals when possible (call 1-800-246-1233). Recycle greases, oil and filters, cleaning

solutions, and other fluids (call 1-800-237-2583).

Hotels/Motels

Pollutants of concern: *detergents, fertilizer, pesticides.* When washing floors, contain wash water and dispose in sewer drain or disposal site. Encourage your landscaping employees to reduce/eliminate the use of fertilizers and pesticides. Regularly keep outside areas clean of trash and debris. Sweep paved surfaces rather than hosing or using blowers.

Shopping Centers

Pollutants of concern: *trash, debris, vehicle leaks, wastewater.* Keep all outdoor impervious surfaces (parking lots, process areas, sidewalks, dumpster areas) free of contaminants that can accumulate. Sweep and pick up trash on a regular basis. Use pesticide and fertilizer alternatives as needed.

Industrial Parks

For loading/unloading of materials: Use seals or door skirts between trailers and buildings to limit exposure to rain and contain spills. Store wastes indoors when possible. Keep waste areas and waste containers covered. Sweep paved surfaces rather than hosing or using blowers. Properly contain and dispose of wash water, sweepings and sediments.

Gas Stations/Auto Repair

Pollutants of concern: *gas/oil, auto fluids, detergents/solvents.* Contain large spills with kitty litter and dispose at a hazardous waste facility. Discourage "topping off" of fuel tanks to avoid spills. Use non-toxic substitutes for chemicals when possible. Recycle greases, cleaning solutions, oil and filters, anti-freeze and other fluids. (Call 1-800-246-1233 for more information.)

Construction

Pollutants of concern: *sediment, gas/oil and solvents.* Minimize the extent of land disturbance. Protect surfaces once they are exposed. Use erosion control measures (native vegetative cover, sediment traps, gravel bag barriers) to keep sediment from entering the storm drains.

