



STEP INTO SPRING WITH CLEAN WATER

Spring is here! This is a season of warmer weather and spring blooms. As we step into spring and hope for rainfall, we must prepare to protect our waterways from pollution as well. When excess water (called runoff) runs across our roads, neighborhoods, and lawns. During this process it picks up trash, oils, and other debris and travels into our storm drain system. The water in the storm drain system is not treated before it flows directly into our creeks and Bays. Let's do our part to reduce pollution this year by following a few clean water tips!

Indoor Tips

- **Don't Dump** — Spring cleaning this season? Properly dispose of your items at your local household hazardous waste facility. Improperly disposed items like household garbage, mattresses, appliances, building materials, abandoned vehicles and boats, and even yard waste are considered illegal dumping. If you see someone dumping waste, trash, or other pollutants, report it! Call 1-800-NO DUMPING (1-800-663-8674).
- **Household Hazardous Waste Disposal** — Did you know household items like batteries, paint, cleaners, and electronics have to be disposed of in a specific way? Your local HHW facility makes it easy on you by offering drive-up services! Call the facility in your area for details about their hours, type of household hazardous waste accepted, and any other information you need. Find your facility at <https://www.cccleanwater.org/community/household-hazardous-waste>.
- **Recycle** — Recycling is a small step you can take to make a positive impact on the environment. A sustainable recycling system can include placing a recycle-only bin in your kitchen, flattening out cardboard boxes for pick up days, and swapping out single-use plastics for reusable materials. Get started today at <https://www.cccleanwater.org/community/make-a-difference/residents/recycle>.



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Outdoor Tips

- **Trash Your Trash** — Put your trash in the bin where it belongs. Reduce the amount of litter in Contra Costa County by keeping a trash bag with you on hikes, road trips, or even on walks. If you are walking and see litter, safely pick it up and throw it away. Keeping a community clean takes effort from everyone.
- **Protect from Pesticides** — When selecting pest control products, choose eco-friendly options that are less risky for people, pets, and the environment. Pesticides linger and chemicals enter our storm drain system through runoff, traveling untreated to our local creeks where they can harm fish, aquatic plants, and people.
- **Pick Up After Your Pet** — When walking your pet this spring, be sure to always pick up after your furry friend. Never leave behind pet waste as it can be harmful to residents and send dangerous bacteria into our waterways. Let's keep our waters clean and swimmable!
- **Recycle Used Motor Oil** — Thousands of gallons of used motor oil have been dumped into our local waterways through storm drains. If you do car maintenance at home, use a sealed container to take used motor oil, antifreeze, filters, and other automobile fluids to a gas station or oil changing site with a recycling program. Locate companies that accept your used oil and car fluids here: <https://www.ccrecycle.org/197/Used-Oil-Recycling>

We can all prevent stormwater pollution this spring by picking up litter, pet waste, and switching to eco-friendly pest management options. For more ways to protect our environment and local waters any time of year, visit www.cccleanwater.org.