



## SPRING CLEANING OUR STORMWATER

You know the old saying: "April Showers Bring May Flowers!" But April showers can bring more than just new spring blooms, they bring water pollution as well. When it rains, excess water runs across our roads, neighborhoods and lawns, picking up pollutants as it travels into our storm drain system. Water in the storm drain system aka stormwater isn't treated; any pollutants picked up along the way travel directly to our creeks and Bays. Help keep your local waters clean this spring and all year long with these easy tips!

### Storm Drain Spring Cleaning

Your home isn't the only thing that could benefit from spring cleaning. Storm water grates collect many pollutants throughout the year, and if you see pollutants like litter on a storm drain grate, safely dispose of it to prevent it from traveling to the Bay, creeks, or ocean. If your storm drain inlet looks exceptionally clogged, contact the [Contra Costa County Department of Public Works](#) – they work with the County Watershed Program to keep storm drains clear and free flowing.

### Pick Up Pet Waste

Leaving pet waste behind isn't just gross, it's harmful to our waters! Storm water picks up pet waste and sends it into the storm drain, where it makes its way to our local waters – untreated. Yuck! When you're walking your dog in your neighborhood or on our trails in Contra Costa County, be sure to always pick up after your pup to keep our waters clean and safe.

### Get Informed About Green Gardening

Did you know that your yard products can impact our waters? Yard chemicals enter our storm drains through runoff and travel to the Bays. Swap to eco-friendly yard chemicals or make your own DIY products at home! Check out our [March newsletter](#) for more information about eco-friendly gardening, or visit <https://www.cccleanwater.org/community/home-garden>.

We can all prevent stormwater pollution! Picking up litter and pet waste, and using eco-friendly yard chemicals are just a few of the things you can do to keep our creeks and Bays pollutant-free. Visit [www.cccleanwater.org](http://www.cccleanwater.org) for more ways to make a difference in our water quality.