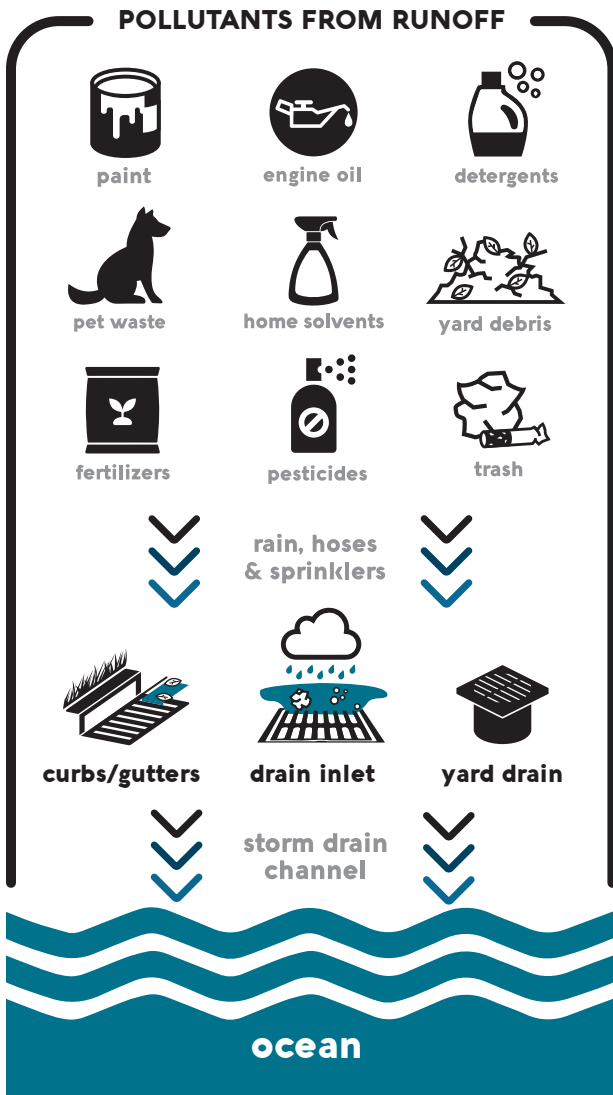


What Common Pollutants are Found in Runoff?

Common runoff pollutants include trash, pet waste, yard debris, fertilizer, pesticides, engine oil, paint, home solvents, and detergents. Continue reading to learn how these pollutants affect our water resources and what you can do to help.



Who is H₂OC?

H₂OC is YOU! H₂OC is also a cooperative stormwater program which includes all 34 cities in Orange County, the County of Orange, and Orange County Flood Control District (OCFCD). Clean and healthy beaches, creeks, rivers, bays, wetlands, and ocean are important to Orange County. H₂OC provides resources to residents and businesses to encourage personal action and prevent polluted runoff from entering our waterways.

Join Us

Visit h2oc.org to learn more about runoff, water pollution, and how you can be the solution to runoff pollution and protect our water resources!

Contact

☎ **24-hour Pollution Reporting Hotline:**
1-877-89-SPILL (1-877-897-7455)

📱 **24-hour Reporting Website:**
myOCeServices.ocgov.com

For emergencies, dial 911

*For more information on household hazardous waste centers go to www.oilandfills.com/hazardous or call (714) 834-4000

**UCCE Master Gardeners: ucceocmghotline@ucanr.edu
mgorange.ucanr.edu/Gardening_Hotline/

YOU ARE THE SOLUTION TO RUNOFF POLLUTION

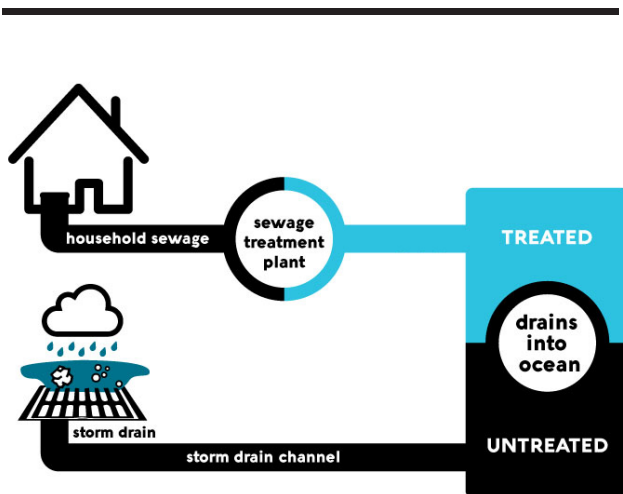


What is Runoff?

Runoff is water from rain and outdoor water use that drains from roofs, driveways, sidewalks, and other surfaces, which does not soak into the ground. As runoff flows over surfaces it will pick up and carry pollutants it encounters, many of which come from waste we produce or mishandle. In Orange County, runoff is captured by storm drains where it flows untreated to the ocean.

Water that flows into storm drains is NOT TREATED

Runoff from homes and businesses may contain pollutants that have harmful effects on downstream creeks, rivers, bays, and ocean. Unlike household sewage, this water is not treated and can negatively impact recreational use, wildlife habitat, and even human health.



TRASH

If trash such as cigarette butts, straws, cups, and other debris enter our waterways, it can create water flow problems and contaminate aquatic habitats. Always properly dispose of waste and recyclables and secure your trash can lid to prevent trash from being released into the environment.



PET WASTE

Pet waste is a threat to human and environmental health because it contains harmful bacteria and pathogens. Being a responsible pet owner means picking up after your pet on walks and in your yard, especially before it rains.



YARD DEBRIS

If yard debris reaches local waterways, it can obstruct stormwater flow, clog storm drains, and cause other problems like flooding and erosion. Be sure to collect all debris when doing yard work and properly dispose of it in a green waste bin, or better yet, compost it.



ENGINE OIL

If engine oil enters our waterways, aquatic animals and plants can be negatively affected. It is important to repair leaking vehicles as soon as possible. Clean affected areas utilizing absorbents available at auto and home supply stores. Be sure to follow manufacturer's directions for proper use and disposal of absorbent. Used engine oil can be disposed of at a Household Hazardous Waste Center (HHWC*) or where oil was purchased.



FERTILIZER

If improperly applied, fertilizers can enter our waterways and cause ecological problems. For proper application, follow the manufacturer's instructions and stop applying fertilizers 48 hours before a forecasted rain event.



PESTICIDES

If pesticides, which include herbicides, insecticides, fungicides, and rodenticides, enter our waterways, they can be dangerous to human health and aquatic life. Be sure to limit pesticide use by using nonchemical methods or least-toxic pesticides whenever possible and contact the University of California Cooperative Extension (UCCE) Master Gardeners** with any questions. To properly apply pesticides, follow the manufacturer's instructions and stop applying 48 hours before a forecasted rain event.



PAINT

Paints, and related materials, contain a wide range of chemicals. These products should never be put in storm drains, sewers or septic systems. Instead, dispose of unused paint at your local HHWC*.



DETERGENTS

If phosphorus from detergents enters our waterways, it can cause ecological problems, including fish kills. Additionally, detergents can remove the protective mucous layer from fish, leaving them susceptible to disease. When using detergents for outdoor cleaning projects, do not allow wash water to reach the storm drain system.



HOME SOLVENTS

Many common household cleaning products contain harmful chemicals which are toxic and volatile. If not used and disposed of properly, these chemicals enter our waterways and pose a threat to both human and aquatic life. Always follow the manufacturer's instructions and dispose of the material at your local HHWC*.