

# HORSE CARE

Unlike water in sanitary sewers (from sinks and toilets), water in storm drains is **not treated or cleaned** before entering our waterways and should never contain any pollutants. Horse care can generate numerous waste products, which can become pollutants such as bacteria, nutrients, chemicals, and other harmful substances. If not properly managed, these pollutants can be transported to Orange County's creeks, rivers, and ocean through our storm drain system.



## Who is H<sub>2</sub>OC?

**H<sub>2</sub>OC is YOU.** H<sub>2</sub>OC 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. H<sub>2</sub>OC provides resources to residents and businesses to encourage personal action and prevent polluted runoff from entering our waterways.

# PROPER TECHNIQUES FOR HORSE CARE TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS

## Join Us

Visit [h2oc.org](https://www.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:**  
877-89-SPILL (877-897-7455)

 **24-hour Pollution Reporting Website:**  
[myOCeServices.ocgov.com](https://myOCeServices.ocgov.com)

*For emergencies, dial 911*



# HORSE CARE BMPs

Follow these Best Management Practices (BMPs) to prevent pollutants from harming our waterways.

## Grooming

- ✓ Wash horses in an area that drains to the sanitary sewer, a vegetated area, or over gravel to prevent runoff pollution.
- ✓ Minimize water use when washing and use a spray nozzle with an automatic shutoff. Turn off the water when not in use.
- ✓ Elevate the wash area from the surrounding ground.
- ✓ Follow all instructions on horse care product bottles and use as little as possible.
- ✓ Clean up spills immediately to prevent chemicals from flowing into the storm drain.

## Pasture Management

- ✓ Sweep or shovel horse holding areas daily instead of hosing to prevent waste from flowing into the storm drain or a waterbody.
- ✓ Clean paddocks at least twice per week during the rainy season (October – April) and once per week the rest of the year.
- ✓ Plant vegetated buffer strips to separate corrals, paddocks, and manure storage areas from waterways.

## Grazing

- ✓ To prevent erosion, establish healthy and vigorous pastures, and replant bare areas to achieve at least three inches of leafy material.
- ✓ Prevent overgrazing by rotating pasture usage to allow grasses to regrow.
- ✓ During rainfall, feed horses indoors to prevent runoff from coming into contact with eventual horse waste.

## Collection and Storage

- ✓ Store horse manure in an enclosed container and under a roof or tarp to prevent runoff when it rains.
- ✓ Locate manure storage areas away from storm drains and waterbodies.
- ✓ Slope the ground away from manure storage areas.

## Use and Disposal

- ✓ Compost soiled bedding and manure. Check with your local waste hauler for more information.
- ✓ Donate composted material to local greenhouses, nurseries, and botanical parks.
- ✓ Transport manure to topsoil companies or composting centers.

## Facility Design

- ✓ If you are constructing or re-building a stable, refer to the County's website\* for information about facility design.



For more equestrian BMPs, visit [https://ocerws.ocpublicworks.com/sites/ocpwocerws/files/2021-07/Equestrian\\_BMP\\_Manual.pdf](https://ocerws.ocpublicworks.com/sites/ocpwocerws/files/2021-07/Equestrian_BMP_Manual.pdf) or scan the QR code.