

# MAINTAINING YOUR PROPERTY

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. Landscaping and gardening can generate a variety of waste products which can become pollutants like dirt, fertilizers, pesticides, green waste (grass clippings, prunings, branches), 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 MAINTENANCE OF LANDSCAPES & GARDENS TO PROTECT OUR WATERWAYS



## Join Us

Visit [h2oc.org](http://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](http://myOCeServices.ocgov.com)

*For emergencies, dial 911*

\*[mwdoc.com/rebates](http://mwdoc.com/rebates)

\*\*[oclandfills.com/hazardous](http://oclandfills.com/hazardous)



# BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Runoff of anything other than clean rainwater is prohibited from entering the storm drain system. Here's what you can do while maintaining your yard and garden to protect our creeks, rivers, and ocean.

## Landscaping

- Regularly inspect your sprinkler system for runoff and leaks and fix immediately. Check backup battery and adjust system regularly.
- Use smart irrigation controllers, drip irrigation, soaker hoses, high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles, or micro spray systems. Check with your local water agency or the Municipal Water District of Orange County (MWDOC) for currently available rebates.\*
- Hand water your landscape to reduce overwatering.
- Cover bare soil with groundcover or mulch to prevent erosion and reduce runoff.
- Check the weather forecast and refrain from watering or using chemicals like fertilizers and pesticides 48 hours before or after rain is predicted.
- Sweep hardscapes and rinse patio furniture on permeable surfaces to prevent runoff.

## Gardening

- Use integrated pest management (IPM) to target specific pests in problem areas instead of widespread chemical use.

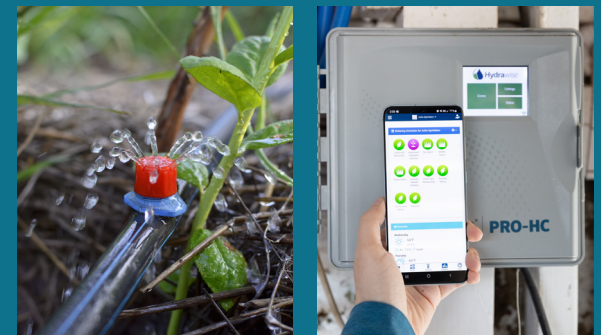
- If pesticides or herbicides are necessary, follow the manufacturer's instructions on the label.
- Plant OC Garden Friendly plants to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers, and pesticides needed.

## Containment

- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Bulk deliveries of landscape materials such as mulch and soil, should be delivered to driveways and covered with a tarp.
- Store chemicals indoors or in a dry and covered area.

## Proper Disposal

- Sweep up solid waste spills immediately. If the spill is liquid, apply an absorbent material then sweep it and dispose of it properly.
- Take unwanted pesticides, fertilizers, and herbicides to a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Center.\*\*
- Dispose of green waste by composting it or placing in your organics waste bin.



For more on waterway-safe landscaping and gardening, please visit <https://h2oc.org/resources/pollution-prevention-for-residents/lawn-and-garden-care/> or scan the QR code.

**THANK YOU FOR PROTECTING OUR WATERWAYS FROM RUNOFF POLLUTION.**