

## Residential Good Housekeeping

**1. Objective:** The objective of the following site housekeeping practices is to reduce impacts from stormwater runoff by developing and using good housekeeping practices. Everyday activities such as driving to work, gardening or washing your car affect the quality of water in local creeks and the San Francisco Bay. Water from garden hoses, sprinklers and rainfall washes materials into gutters and storm drains. Chemicals such as motor oil, paint products, pet waste and pesticides flow from yards, parking lots and streets, sending contaminated water, or urban runoff, *untreated* into local creeks, groundwater and the San Francisco Bay, where it harms fish and other wildlife. It is estimated that 50% to 80% of all pollutants entering the San Francisco Bay are discharged from storm drain systems.

**PLEASE NOTE:** If you see someone pouring auto fluids or any other substance into the storm drain, call 911. Pouring substances into the storm drain is against the law.

### 2. Automotive Housekeeping

- 2.1 Do not store automotive parts, fluids, batteries or chemicals outside. These items should be stored in an area not exposed to the weather.
- 2.2 Check driveway and garage surfaces daily for leaks, spills and litter. Clean up spills with a broom, not a hose. Use absorbents to soak up spills (i.e. cat litter, sawdust, or cornmeal), as needed, then sweep up absorbents after use.
- 2.3 Check for vehicle leaks. Use a drip pan until repair is complete.
- 2.4 Consider washing vehicles at a commercial car wash or on a pervious area (landscape, gravel, etc. that does not drain to the storm drain system). Even biodegradable soap can harm aquatic wildlife.
- 2.5 Recycle and dispose of automotive fluids properly.

### 3. Household Maintenance

- 3.1 Buy "non-toxic" products whenever possible. Cautious use of chemicals is recommended.
- 3.2 Make sure hired contractors and professionals recycle and dispose of materials properly, not in the gutter or storm drain.
- 3.3 Dispose of washwater in the sink or toilet. Never dispose of leftover chemicals into a sink or the toilet.
- 3.4 Dispose of used or unneeded household hazardous products at one of the Alameda County Household Hazardous Waste facilities. Call 1-800-606-6606 for a list of facilities or visit <http://household-hazwaste.org/>  
Household Hazardous Waste includes:
  - Leftover paints
  - Pesticides
  - Household cleaners
  - Automotive fluids
  - Batteries
  - Fluorescent lamps
  - Mercury containing products (thermostats, thermometers, fluorescent bulbs)
  - Pharmaceuticals (medicine)

### 4. Lawn and Garden

- 4.1 Pick up animal wastes and dispose in garbage cans or toilet.
- 4.2 Consider composting yard and garden trimmings.
- 4.3 Avoid over watering.
- 4.4 Disconnected Downspouts

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- Do not connect roof downspouts to the storm drain system without approval from the City.
- Inspect downspouts and gutters in the autumn and spring to check for sagging, leaking, or loose areas.
- Prior to the rainy season, clean out accumulated leaves and other debris.
- Test whether downspout is clear of debris by inserting a water hose into gutters, turn on water and allow it to flow through the downspout.
- Inspect underneath downspouts. Look for pooling; if present, place river rocks or cobbles at the discharge point to eliminate puddles. Inspect splash blocks and sleeves (if present) to ensure they are intact and well positioned to accept stormwater and direct it into landscaping. There should be a slight tilt to the splash block, leading stormwater away from the foundation.
- Inspect surrounding landscaping to ensure erosion is not present. If erosion is evident, install splash block or cobblestones immediately under the downspout to spread the energy of the water flow.

## 4.5 Consider using integrated pest management or less toxic pest management methods, as described below:

- Employ non-chemical controls (biological, physical and cultural controls) before using chemicals to treat a pest problem.
- Use geotextiles and apply 3-4 inches of mulch to exposed soils to prevent weed growth.
- Replace problem plants with locally adapted, pest resistant plants. Do not plant invasive species. Refer to the California Invasive plant council for a list of invasive species:

### **California Invasive Plant Council**

**510-843-3902; [www.cal-ipc.org](http://www.cal-ipc.org)**

- Prune plants properly and at the appropriate time of year.
- Limit fertilizer use unless soil testing indicates a deficiency. Slow-release or organic fertilizer is preferable.
- Provide adequate irrigation for landscape plants; do not over water.
- Sweep up spilled fertilizer and pesticides. Do not wash away or bury such spills.
- If chemical controls are necessary, use the least toxic pesticide first. Avoid the use of broad-spectrum pesticides.
- If pesticides are necessary, apply them appropriately.
  - ◆ Do not over-apply pesticide.
  - ◆ Spray only where the infestation exists.
  - ◆ Follow the manufacturer's instructions for mixing and applying material.
  - ◆ Apply pesticide at the appropriate time to maximize effectiveness and minimize the likelihood of discharging pesticide into runoff.
  - ◆ Except for pre-emergent pesticides, avoid application if rain is expected.
  - ◆ Unwanted/unused pesticides shall be disposed of as household hazardous waste (refer to section 3.4 for more information).

## **5. Swimming Pools, Spas, Fountains, Ponds**

### 5.1 The following options are available for discharge of swimming pool, spa, fountain and pond water.

- Discharge all water to a sanitary sewer through a cleanout as a primary option. For review, approval and conditions of the wastewater treatment agency, contact:  
**Dublin San Ramon Services District**  
**(925) 828-0515; <http://www.dsrsd.com/>**

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- For small volumes of water, if sanitary sewer is unavailable, a secondary option is to discharge to a landscaped area.
- Dispose of filter rinse water and backwash:
  - ◆ Clean the filter in a wash area that drains to the sanitary sewer.
  - ◆ If a sink is not readily available or is too small for the filter, create a wash area that contains the washwater and pump the washwater to a sanitary connection.
  - ◆ For diatomaceous earth (DE) filters, be sure the DE is captured prior to discharge.

## 6. Garbage, Trash & Litter

- 6.1 Dublin residents are required to have garbage, recycling and yard waste service with the City's franchised service provider. For Service, call **Amador Valley Industries: (925) 479-9545**; <http://www.amadorvalleyindustries.com/>
- 6.2 Move carts completely out of public view within 24 hours after garbage pick-up.
- 6.3 Carts need to be set-out with spacing of at least 18 inches between each cart.
- 6.4 Lids of carts must close completely to prevent trash from dispersing.

## 7. Street Sweeping

Public/City Streets are generally swept twice per month on a fixed schedule based on the day of the month.

- Move all large materials, vehicles and trash from curb before 5am on your street sweeping day.
- To determine your street sweeping schedule, contact the City:  
**City of Dublin Public Works Department (925) 833-6630; <http://dublin.ca.gov/345/Street-Sweeping>**

Private Streets:

- The Homeowners Association (HOA) is responsible for street sweeping private streets. Call your HOA for your street sweeping schedule.
- Street Sweeping Guidelines:
  - Post or make available street sweeping schedules with signs so that cars are not parked on the street during designated sweeping days.
  - Increase the sweeping frequency for streets with high pollutant loadings, especially in high traffic and industrial areas.
  - Increase the sweeping frequency for streets in special problem areas such as after special events, or areas with high litter or erosion zones.
  - Perform street sweeping during dry weather if possible.
  - Avoid wet cleaning the street; instead, utilize dry methods where possible.
  - Maintain cleaning equipment in good working condition and purchase replacement equipment as needed. Old sweepers should be replaced with more technologically advanced sweepers (preferably regenerative air sweepers) that maximize pollutant removal.
  - Operate sweepers at manufacturer recommended optimal speed levels to increase effectiveness.
  - Regularly inspect vehicles and equipment for leaks and repair promptly.
  - Keep accurate logs of the number of curb-miles swept and the amount of waste collected.
  - Dispose of street sweeping debris and dirt at a landfill. Liquid waste shall be disposed of at an appropriate facility. No material (liquid or solid) may be disposed of in the storm drain system.

## 8. Private Storm Drain Stencils

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- 8.1 All storm drains shall have storm drain medallions installed. In the event storm drain medallions have been damaged or are missing, contact the City of Dublin Environmental Services Division at (925) 833-6630 for assistance.

## **9. Vector Control**

- 8.1 To prevent mosquito breeding, ensure that there are no areas of standing water around your house.
- 8.2 Areas of standing water should be drained or cleared as soon as they are located.
- 8.3 The Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District (ACMAD) may be contacted as needed for assistance should any mosquito issues arise. ACMAD can provide mosquito fish to help with mosquitoes in backyard ponds. The contact information for ACMAD follows:

**Alameda County Mosquito Abatement District**

**Phone 510-783-7744; [www.mosquitoes.org](http://www.mosquitoes.org)**

**For more information or informative brochures, please visit our website at [www.dublin.ca.gov](http://www.dublin.ca.gov) or call (925) 833-6630.**