



## REQUIREMENTS FOR HOME AND GARDEN CARE ACTIVITIES

### HOME CARE

Many hazardous materials may be used in and around residences during routine maintenance activities (such as oils, paints, cleaners, bleaches, pesticides, glues, solvents, and other products). Improper or excessive use of these products can increase the potential for pollutants to be transported to the storm drain by runoff. The pollution prevention activities outlined in this fact sheet should be used to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system.



Think before conducting home care activities. Remember: *The ocean starts at YOUR front door.*

### REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Clean out painting equipment in an area where the waste can be contained and properly disposed of (preferably into the sewer). Use a sink connected to the sewer to clean brushes, rollers, etc. It is illegal to wash out paint in the gutter, street, or any other area that ultimately drains to the storm drain system. **NOTE:** paint/products should be disposed of at a household hazardous waste center. Empty, dry paint cans may be disposed of in the regular trash. Empty aerosol cans are recyclable.
- Rinse off cement mixers and cement-laden tools in a contained washout area. Dispose of dried concrete waste in household trash.
- If safe, contain, clean up, and properly dispose of all household hazardous waste spills. If an unsafe condition exists, call 9-1-1 to activate the proper response team.
- Household hazardous materials must be stored indoors or under cover and in closed and labeled containers. Dispose of them at a household hazardous waste center.
- Household wash waters (e.g., washer machine effluent, mop water, etc.) must be disposed of in the sanitary sewer.
- Pool and spa water may be discharged to the storm drain if residual chlorine is less than 0.1mg/L, the pH is between 6.5 and 8.5, and the water is free from any unusual coloration and filter media. Pool filter media must be contained and disposed of properly.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

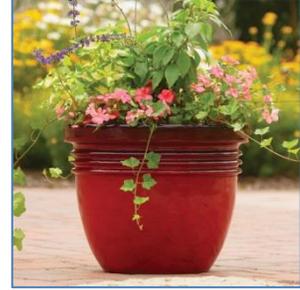
- Only purchase the types and amounts of materials needed.
- Share unused portions of products with neighbors or community programs.
- Take household hazardous waste to one of the [County's facilities](#). Mission Viejo residents can also call WM Curbside at 1-800-449-7587 once per year for curbside disposal.

### For additional information, contact:

City of Mission Viejo  
Department of Public Works  
949.470.3056  
[www.cityofmissionviejo.org](http://www.cityofmissionviejo.org)

## GARDEN CARE

Garden activities may contribute pollutants via soil erosion, green waste, fertilizer, and pesticide use. Plant and garden care activities such as landscape maintenance, fertilization, and pesticide application have the potential to discharge significant quantities of pollutants to the storm drain system. Non-vegetated surfaces may allow for significant erosion leading to high sediment loads. Other pollutants, such as pesticides, may adsorb into the soil particles and be transported off-site. Excess fertilizer and pesticide pollutants from over application may be carried to the storm drain by dissolving in irrigation runoff or rainwater. Green wastes may also contain organic matter and may have adsorbed fertilizers and pesticides.



Excessive irrigation is often the most significant factor in home and garden care activities contributing to pollution. Pollutants may dissolve in irrigation water and then be transported to the storm drain, or particles and materials coated with fertilizers and pesticides may be suspended in the irrigation flow and carried to the storm drain. The pollution prevention activities outlined in this fact sheet should be used to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system.

Think before conducting garden care activities. Remember: *The ocean starts at YOUR front door.*

## REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Irrigation systems must be properly adjusted to reflect reasonable water needs. Irrigation runoff is a prohibited discharge under the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. It is considered a prohibited discharge if water flows off the property and into the street.
- Minimize the use of pesticides and fertilizers. Read the labels and follow directions to avoid improper use. Do not apply chemicals if it is windy or about to rain.
- Properly clean up and dispose of gardening chemicals, fertilizers, or soils. If possible, return the spilled material to the container for future use. **Never** use a hose to wash down spills into the gutter.
- Lawn and garden care products must be stored in closed, labeled containers, in covered areas, or off-ground and under protective tarps.
- Household hazardous waste must be properly disposed of at a [household hazardous waste center](#).
- Cover non-vegetated surfaces to prevent erosion.

## RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Use drought- and insect-resistant landscaping.
- Cultivate garden often to control weeds.
- Use integrated pest management (IPM). Plant pest-repelling plants (e.g., marigolds) or use pest-eating insects (e.g., ladybugs) to reduce the need for pesticides.
- Do not leave food (human or pet) outside overnight.
- Remove fruit and garden waste.

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