



## REQUIREMENTS FOR DISPOSAL OF TRASH/WASTE

Rotting food and trash often contain high levels of bacteria. If this trash/waste is spilled in the street, gutter, or on the ground, it may ultimately be washed into our creeks and into the ocean untreated. Unlike our sewer system, storm drains flow directly into our creeks and the ocean without any disinfection. High bacteria levels can cause health risks to humans who come into contact with this water. In addition, high bacteria levels result in beach closures.

Help protect the environment; keep your lids closed! Remember: *The ocean starts at YOUR front door.*



Trash cans and dumpsters left open/uncovered can pollute the environment in several ways. Here are just a few:

- Rainwater that collects inside can leak out and carry pollutants and bacteria into our creeks and the ocean untreated.
- Wind can carry trash out into our streets and neighborhoods.
- Wildlife and rodents can gain access to this waste, which can propagate the spread of disease and bacteria.

### RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

There are several things you can do to help.

- Always keep trash can lids closed. Waste Management of Orange County (WMOC) will replace residential containers and commercial dumpsters in Mission Viejo **at no charge** if they have missing or damaged lids, leak, or are in disrepair. Contact WMOC Customer Service Center at **949.642.1191** to arrange for a replacement.
- Avoid overfilling trash cans. Contact WMOC to obtain additional containers if your existing container is not big enough to handle all of your waste. (Additional green waste and recycling containers are *FREE!*)
- Never hose down trash cans or trash enclosure areas if the water will run out into the street or gutter. This water will likely contain pollutants and bacteria that will flow directly into our creeks and the ocean untreated. In addition, this is illegal if the water will ultimately enter the storm drain system. These areas should be cleaned by sweeping and/or mopping (mop water should be disposed of in a sink or toilet).
- Remove your trash containers from the street as soon as possible. Typically, the street sweeper is scheduled to be in your neighborhood the day after your trash collection day, every other week. When trash containers, vehicles, basketball hoops, or boats are in the street, the sweepers must go around them, and their effectiveness is drastically reduced.

### For additional information, contact:

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