



REQUIREMENTS FOR WATER CONSERVATION

Excessive irrigation and/or the overuse of water are often the most significant factor in transporting pollutants to the storm drain system. Pollutants from a wide variety of sources (including automobile repair and maintenance, automobile washing, automobile parking, home and garden care activities, and pet care) may dissolve in the water and can be transported to the storm drain. In addition, particles and materials coated with fertilizers and pesticides may be suspended in the flow and be transported to the storm drain.



Hosing off outside areas to wash them down not only consumes large quantities of water, but also transports any pollutants, sediments, and waste to the storm drain system. 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 using water. Remember: *The ocean starts at YOUR front door.*

REQUIRED ACTIVITIES

- Irrigation systems must be properly adjusted to reflect seasonal 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.
- Do not hose off outside surfaces to clean; sweep with a broom instead. If this is not adequate, use a mop and dispose of the water in a sink or toilet. It is illegal to wash off the sidewalk, patio, or driveway if the water will flow into the gutter and, ultimately, the storm drain.

RECOMMENDED ACTIVITIES

- Fix any leaking faucets and eliminate unnecessary water sources.
- Use drought-tolerant landscaping to reduce the watering needs.
- Do not over-water lawns or gardens. Over-watering wastes water and promotes diseases.
- Wash automobiles at a commercial car wash.

For additional information, contact:

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