

# Storm Water Pollution Prevention Tips

## What is polluted runoff?

When it rains, water flows over streets and yards carrying pollutants it picks up into storm drains. There are over 20,000 storm drain inlets and over 670 miles of storm drains the City cleans and maintains.



## Did you know that storm drain runoff goes to the ocean?

Runoff collected by storm drains is piped to the ocean, not to a sewer treatment plant. Unlike the sanitary sewer system, anything dumped into the storm drain system usually flows directly into the nearest stream or drainage channel without any treatment to remove pollutants. This is why it is important not to dump harmful products that could affect the ocean down the storm drains.

## What are BMPs?

Best Management Practices, otherwise known as BMPs are methods and techniques found to be most effective and practical to help prevent or reduce potential pollutants from reaching the ocean. Storm water BMPs can be implemented into the landscape and can also be incorporated into day-to-day activities. The cumulative effect of incorporating BMPs throughout an entire watershed can help contribute to improved storm water management.

**The Law:** It is unlawful to pollute or contaminate the City's drainage system. Pollutants include and are not limited to car washing detergent, motor oil, trash, and landscaping debris. The City's drainage system was built to convey storm water, not trash or pollutants, to streams and ultimately to the ocean. Anything that may cause a pollution problem in state waters should not be allowed to enter the City's storm drainage system.

**The Ordinance:** The Revised Ordinances of Honolulu, Section 14-12.23a states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to discharge or cause to be discharged any pollutant into any drainage facility which causes a pollution problem in state waters, or causes a violation of any provision of the city NPDES permit or the water quality standards of the State of Hawaii."

## What are pollutants?

- Biocide
- Chemical waste
- Commercial FOG waste
- Construction waste and material
- Cooking or fuel oil
- Dredged spoils
- Hazardous substance
- Leaf debris
- Paint
- Pesticides
- Pet Waste
- Radioactive waste
- Rock
- Sand
- Sewage
- Soil sediment
- Solvent
- Toxic substance
- Waste juice
- Waste milk



## Be a part of the solution!

The City and County of Honolulu, working under Federal Clean Water Act Guidelines, has a number of public education programs that focus on community involvement and targeted enforcement to eliminate or reduce illegal discharge practices. Existing projects such as the storm drain stenciling, Adopt-A-Stream Workshops, World Water Monitoring Day, and Adopt-A-Block cleanup and monitoring programs provide opportunities to help out in almost every neighborhood.

To volunteer call the Environmental Concern Line at 768-3300.

