

Disposal of Chemical Containers

- Chemical containers that still have product in them cannot go into your regular trash. They are hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.
- Empty Chemical containers must be rinsed prior to disposal. The rinse water should be used in your garden just the same as the original chemical. It cannot go down the drain.

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

City of Modesto
Solid Waste Management
(209) 577-5494

Stanislaus County
Household Hazardous Waste Facility
(209) 525-4123

To Report a Clogged Storm Drain

City of Modesto
Water Quality Control Division
(209) 577-6200

To Report a Spill or Illegal Dumping

City of Modesto
Water Quality Control Division
(209) 577-6200



This is one in a series of pamphlets describing storm drain protection measures. Other pamphlets include:

- Automotive Maintenance & Car Care**
- Equipment Rentals**
- Food Service Industry**
- Fresh Concrete and Mortar Application**
- General Construction & Site Supervision**
- Heavy Equipment & Earthmoving Activities**
- Home Repair & Remodeling**
- Horse Owners & Equine Industry**
- Kennels**
- Landscaping, Gardening, Pest Control**
- Mobile Washers and Cleaners**
- Nurseries**
- Painting**
- Roadwork and Paving**
- Swimming Pool, Jacuzzi & Fountain Maintenance**

For more information about storm drain protection or additional pamphlets, call:



www.modestogov.com
City of Modesto
Public Works Department
Environmental Compliance Section
(209) 577-6377

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)



Landscaping, Gardening and Pest Control

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

Homeowners

Gardeners

Landscapers



Environmental Compliance Section
Public Works Department

Water Pollution Prevention It's Up to Us!

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN



Landscaping, Gardening and Pest Control

What are some of the potential pollutant sources?

- Landscaping and Gardening
 - Dirt / Soil / Rocks / Bark and other landscaping materials
 - Vegetation removal
 - Herbicides, insecticides and fertilizers
 - Over watering
- Pest Control
 - Toxic chemicals
 - Hazardous wastes

Storm drains are intended for rain water to drain rain water away from our streets and to prevent flooding. Urban runoff contributes significantly to the pollutants that enter our creeks, rivers and oceans. By using materials properly, protecting stockpiles and materials from rain and wind and using less toxic chemicals you can minimize the pollutant potential.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Landscaping and Gardening

- Do not over water. Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems.
- Recycle tree clippings and pruning waste
- Do not blow or rake leaves into street, gutter or storm drains
- Plan landscaping activities during dry weather
- Protect storm drains when doing excavating to prevent soil and sediment from entering the storm drain system.
- Protect stockpiles of materials with tarps or temporary roofs to protect them from rain and wind erosion.
- Place "pruned refuse" for pick up away from the gutter to minimize potential for storm drain intrusion (See MMC Code 4-7.1102)

- Fertilize using organic or non-toxic products. Do not over fertilize, follow directions for use.
- Store fertilizer in a protected area to prevent run off.
- Use herbicides that are non-toxic. Follow all directions on the label for use.
- Plant California native, drought resistant or low water using plants, flowers, shrubs and ground cover.
- Use your green waste can to dispose of grass clippings and other yard waste that is not pruned refuse as defined in MMC Code 4-7.1102.
- Recycle and compost as an alternative for yard wastes
- Leaves are only allowed in the street for pick up during specified times of the year and cannot be combined with pruned refuse.
- Plant vegetation in dirt / exposed areas that have a potential for erosion.
- Over watering will cause run off that carries yard waste, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers into the storm drain system. Do not over water.

Pesticides and Alternatives

- Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM)
 - A) Physical Controls
 - Caulking holes that pests can get into
 - Create barriers to pests
 - Remove pests by hand picking
 - Use traps
 - B) Biological Controls
 - Predatory insects (e.g. Green lacewings eat aphids)
 - Bacterial insecticides (e.g. Bacillus thuringiensis kills Caterpillars)
 - C) Chemical Controls
 - The least toxic products
 - Dehydrating dusts (e.g. silica gel)
 - Insecticidal soaps
 - Boric Acid powder
 - Horticultural oils
 - Pyrethrin-based insecticides

DO YOU KNOW THESE

GARDEN INSECT HELPERS?

Lacewings: devour aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, spider mites, leafhoppers and insect eggs and can be found on lilac, daisies, goldenrod and other flowers and plants.

Soldier Beetle: eats aphids and other soft bodied insects. Is attracted to Goldenrod.

Dragonfly: goes after flying insects like flies, midges and mosquitoes and is attracted to any of your water plants.

Bee: Needed for pollination of our flowers, plants and vegetables, loves to visit just about every type of flower.

Syrphid Fly: hunts aphids, mealybugs and other pests and pollinates too, just like the bee, loves most flowers.

Ground Beetle: Goes after slugs, snails, cutworms and root maggots and can be found on the ground in your garden.

Spider: Probably the greatest predator in your garden. Goes after many types of insects and can be seen in all parts of your garden.

Parasitic Wasp: Lays its eggs on pests and their eggs. As the larvae hatch, they eat the pest. They like Goldenrod, Buckwheat, Sunflowers and Yarrow.

Tachinid Fly: Eats caterpillars and beetles and is attracted to Buckwheat.

Ladybug: Eats aphids, scale, thrips, mealybugs and spider mites and can be found on Yarrow, Buckwheat, Lilac and Asters.

If you must use chemicals:

- Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control your pest. The insect should be listed on the label. Approximately 90% of the insects on your lawn and garden are not harmful.
- Read labels and use only as directed. Many home gardeners use pesticides at over 20 times the rate that farmers do.
- Do not use pesticides if rain is expected.
- Never use pesticides near waterways, creeks, rivers or the ocean.



Spill Control

- Be prepared for spills
- Clean up spills using absorbent materials and then dispose of all waste properly.