



# Clean Living in Our Watershed

## What is our watershed?

The watershed is the total land area from which rainwater drains into a stream, river or body of water. In Ventura County our primary watersheds include the Ventura and Santa Clara Rivers, Malibu and Calleguas Creeks and the bays and estuaries which all empty into the Pacific Ocean. The watershed includes all of the natural terrain and neighborhoods surrounding these major water bodies, including your home.

## How can I help keep our watershed clean?

Do the right thing by keeping preventable pollutants from entering the storm drain system. The storm drain system is a vast network of gutters, pipes and open channels designed for flood control, which directs runoff, untreated, straight into the watershed.



## What are preventable pollutants?

Preventable pollutants include both seen and unseen materials that accumulate in our yards, driveways, gutters and streets and damage our watersheds. Even simple changes in the way we care for our homes can make a big difference in keeping our watersheds clean.

## Home

**Household Chemicals** – Take all unwanted household hazardous waste (HHW) such as paint, solvent and toxic cleaning products, to local collection events. Call your local recycling coordinator for more information.

**Repairs & Construction** – Prevent pollutants from leaving your property during remodeling and repair projects, especially concrete work and painting. Before work begins, discuss wastewater disposal options with your contractor.



## Yard

### Fertilizers & Pesticides

Overuse of any pesticide or fertilizer is a key contributor to stormwater pollution. Apply only as needed and as directed on the label, and always store under cover, out of the rain. Pesticides that contain diazinon or chlorpyrifos have been banned and should be disposed of at your local HHW collection event.



**Watering** – Save water and money by automating your sprinkler system. Irrigate after dusk or early in the day when less water is lost to wind and evaporation. Perform regular maintenance to minimize runoff that can carry preventable pollutants into the storm drain.

**Pool/Spa** – Pool chemicals can be deadly to our watershed. Never dispose of acid wash wastewater, pool filter backwash or other pool cleaning wastewater into the storm drain. Before a pool is drained, all chlorine must be removed and your city may require a permit.

**Maintenance** – Clear, remove and dispose of any debris, (including leaves and grass cuttings), in your yard waste container or by composting. Even organic waste, when introduced into the watershed, reduces oxygen levels and increases harmful bacteria in our waters, hurting both animal and human life.



**Pet Waste** – The same bacteria responsible for beach closings is found in pet waste. Always pick up after your pet and dispose of pet waste in the trash.

## Car

**Fluids** – Use drip pans to catch all oil, brake, and transmission fluids. Clean up any spills immediately, using dry cleaning methods like kitty litter or rags. Take all waste material to local HHW collection events. If changing automotive fluids at home be sure to dispose of used fluids at an approved recycling center.

**Wash** – If possible take your car to a self-serve or full-serve car wash, where the wastewater will be treated. If you do wash your car at home, use as little water as possible to reduce run-off and use a phosphate free, biodegradable detergent. Consider washing your car on your lawn to keep our watershed clean.



Our watershed is invaluable to the health and beauty of our community. Simple precautions can protect and preserve our watershed, streams, lakes and beaches. Please remember, **the watershed should only shed water.**



## The Watershed Should Only Shed Water

# Watershed Protection Tips for Residents

## Where's My Watershed?



Learn more about the watershed and how you can help protect it.

The Community for a Clean Watershed program was established to protect Ventura County's watersheds by preventing stormwater pollution. For more information on keeping our watersheds clean go to [cleanwatershed.org](http://cleanwatershed.org) or contact your community's participating agency:

**Camarillo** 388-5338

**Fillmore** 524-3701

**Moorpark** 517-6257

**Ojai** 640-2560

**Oxnard** 488-3517

**Port Hueneme** 986-6556

**Santa Paula** 933-4212

**Simi Valley** 583-6462

**Thousand Oaks** 449-2400

**Ventura** 667-6502

**Unincorporated Areas of Ventura County** 650-4064



### Ventura River Watershed

Ventura, Ojai

### Santa Clara River Watershed

Ventura, Fillmore, Oxnard, Santa Paula, Saticoy, Lake Piru, El Rio

### Calleguas Creek Watershed

Camarillo, Somis, Moorpark, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks

### Malibu Creek Watershed

Thousand Oaks

Plus the Bays and Estuaries surrounding Ventura County's coastal cities including Port Hueneme, Oxnard and Ventura.

COMMUNITY FOR A CLEAN WATERSHED



[cleanwatershed.org](http://cleanwatershed.org)

The watershed is everyone's responsibility. Inside you'll learn how we all, unknowingly, contribute to its contamination and how we can stop.