

Protect Our Waterways

Water that flows into local waterways and storm drains flow directly into our rivers, creeks, sloughs, and the Delta, rather than our treatment plant, and carry with it many pollutants that are harmful to humans and wildlife.

We all play a unique role in helping to protect the Delta and surrounding waterways. By following these best management practices, our Delta and surrounding waterways will be available for future generations to enjoy.

*Only Rain Down the
Storm Drain!*



Mercury Awareness

Mercury pollution in stormwater runoff is a leading cause of waterway impairment. In high quantities, mercury can be harmful to humans. High levels of mercury are partly caused by the improper disposal of:

- Fluorescent lights (including CFLs)
- Electrical switches
- Thermometers
- Pressure and vacuum gauges

San Joaquin County residents can drop off these waste items for free at the Household Hazardous Waste Facility:

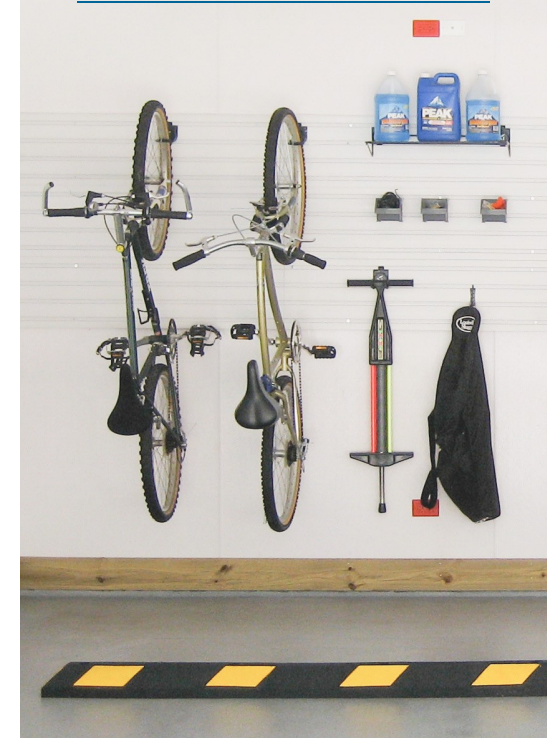
7850 R A Bridgeford Street
Stockton, CA 95206

City of Stockton Municipal Utilities
Department Stormwater Program:
209.937.8700


2500 Navy Drive
Stockton, CA 95206
www.stocktonca.gov/mud

San Joaquin County Stormwater Program:
866.755.4955




Managing Garage Waste to Protect Our Waterways





Guide to Managing Garage Waste to Protect Our Waterways

-  Read these Best Management Practices (BMP) for tips to properly dispose of garage waste.




General

-  Local waterways become polluted when used motor oil, antifreeze, paints, fertilizers, pet waste, soapy water and pesticides wash into the storm drains — the top source of pollution in our nation's urban waters.
-  Storm drains were designed to collect rain and clean water runoff to prevent flooding during storms.
-  Preventing pollution at the source is the most effective way to avoid flooding and keep harmful substances out of the storm drain system.


Vehicle Maintenance

-  Service vehicles regularly to help prevent leaks and reduce emissions.
-  Wash cars on grass or gravel in order to allow the materials to filter through the vegetation or soil instead of running off yards, into gutters and down storm drains.





-  Use auto shut-off water nozzle on garden hoses. Empty the soap bucket into the toilet or sink instead of streets and gutters.
-  Baking soda paste is a non-toxic substance that can be used to clean battery heads, cable clamps, and chrome. Add mild, biodegradable dishwashing soap to the paste to clean wheels and tires. White vinegar or lemon juice mixed with water works well for cleaning windows.
-  To keep air conditioning seals from cracking and leaking coolant, run the air conditioner at least once every two weeks.


Disposal Practices


-  Never dispose of gasoline, used oil, or other automotive products in the gutters, storm drains, sinks or toilets. Take these products to a certified recycling center or the San Joaquin County Hazardous Waste Facility:

7850 R A Bridgeford Street
Stockton, CA 95206

-  Absorb any spills in the garage with kitty litter, sawdust or corn meal. Dispose of the materials from a small spill by placing them in a plastic bag and throwing them in the trash.

-  When buying a new car battery, take the old one to the retailer. California law requires retailers to accept them. Any local hazardous waste collection events will also take them.

-  Car wax and automotive fluids have long shelf lives. Store in airtight containers and use completely instead of disposing of them.

-  Single use and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs, computers, monitors, cell phones and electronic waste, unused/expired medications, pool chemicals, toner, laser and inkjet print cartridges can also be disposed of for free at the San Joaquin County Hazardous Waste Facility.

