

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.

Nursery facilities 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:

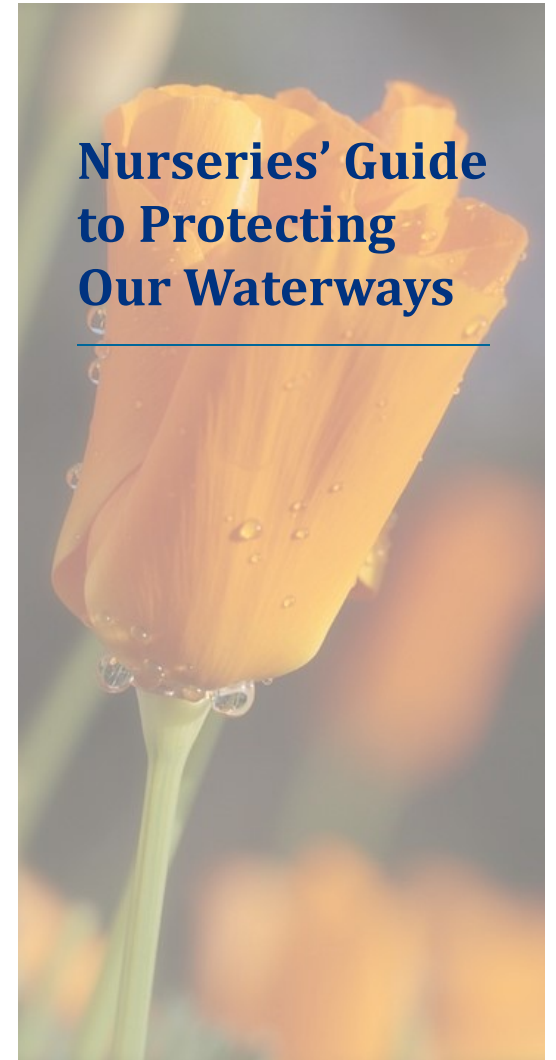
7850 R A Bridgeford Street
Stockton, CA 95206

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

Nurseries' Guide to Protecting Our Waterways



Nursery Facilities' Guide to Protecting Our Waterways

Facilities that grow and sell plants, and/or conduct landscaping activities can generate pollutants such as toxic chemicals (solvents, chlorinated compounds, glycols, etc.) and hydrocarbons (oil, grease, etc.) through chemical use and storage, equipment maintenance & repair and cooling water.

General

- ☀ Vacuum or sweep. Do not wash shop floors or adjacent outdoor areas. Never allow wash water to enter storm drains, gutters, or streets.
- ☀ Maintain facility grounds. Move or cover activities and materials to prevent contact with stormwater.
- ☀ Dispose of chemical recovery filters appropriately.
- ☀ Label onsite storm drains.

Chemical Storage

- ☀ Clearly label all chemical containers and do not leave them uncovered. Use air-tight containers.
- ☀ Store chemicals indoors. When stored outside, provide a covered area with berms to protect the containers from stormwater contact and to contain spills.



Chemical Use

- ☀ Use only as many chemicals as needed for cleaning. Reuse or recycle chemicals, if possible.
- ☀ Collect wash water and dispose of properly. Do not discharge wash water into storm drains, gutters or streets.
- ☀ Use a licensed service to dispose of hazardous waste. Hazardous wastes can include used rags soaked with solvents, floor cleaners, and detergents.

Equipment Maintenance and Repair

- ☀ Move maintenance and repair activities indoors, if possible. Cover outside repair areas with a roof and cover the ground with a tarp, ground cloth, or drip pans.
- ☀ Regularly inspect equipment for leaks. Collect leaking or dripping fluids in drip pans or containers.
- ☀ Use biodegradable, phosphate-free detergents for cleaning machines rather than solvents. Wastewater contaminated by any detectable amount of dry cleaning solvent is prohibited from being discharged into the sanitary sewer.

Spill Control

- ☀ Develop and maintain a spill response plan.
- ☀ Place an adequate stockpile of spill cleanup materials where it will be readily accessible.
- ☀ Spot clean leaks and drips routinely.
- ☀ Clean leaks, drips, and other spills with as little water as possible. Use rags for small spills, a damp mop for general cleanup, and dry absorbent material for larger spills.
- ☀ Remove the absorbent materials promptly and dispose of properly.
- ☀ Keep the spill from entering the streets, gutters, and storm drains.
- ☀ Do not use bleach or disinfectants if rinse water could flow to the street, gutter, or storm drain.

Employee Training

- ☀ Train employees/staff on the proper facility maintenance, spill control plan, and spill containment/cleanup procedures.
- ☀ Establish a regular training schedule, train all new employees, and conduct annual refresher training.
- ☀ Use a training log or similar method to document training.

