








Storm Water Pollution Prevention

One of the leading causes of pollution in creeks, rivers, and lakes is storm water runoff from developed areas. Developed areas contain many impermeable surfaces such as roofs, concrete and asphalt. In these areas, rainwater travels over the impermeable surfaces into gutters, storm drains and ditches.

Unlike sewage, which goes to treatment plants, rainwater runoff flows untreated directly into the local waterways. Anything thrown, swept or poured into the street, gutter or catch basin can flow directly into our creeks, rivers and eventually to the ocean. This includes pollutants like trash, pet waste, cigarette butts, motor oil, anti-freeze, runoff from pesticides and fertilizers, paint from brushes and containers rinsed in the gutter and toxic household chemicals.

Identifying sources of storm water pollution and keeping these pollutants from storm drains and ditches, is the best and most economical way to keep storm water clean. Everyone in Grass Valley can help prevent storm water pollution. It is most often caused by everyday behavior that you may or not realize contributes to the problem. Here are some steps that can be taken to prevent storm water pollution:

-  Don't dump anything down storm drains. Chemicals such as paint, oil, and pesticides harm fish, wildlife and people.
- Dispose of litter properly. 
- Keep storm drains clear of debris, dirt, sand, silt, and wastes.
-  Prevent dripping and spilling automotive fluids.
- Wash cars at a car wash rather than in a yard or on the street. 
-  Reduce or eliminate use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers for landscaping and lawns. Never apply fertilizer or pesticide before a rain.
- Recycle leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste, instead of blowing, sweeping or hosing them into the street or gutter. 
- Plant or pave areas that are prone to erosion.
- Keep construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains. 

**Simple changes in everyday life are all it takes to help.
We can prevent storm water pollution, if we all do our part.**