

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND YOUR WATERSHED:

Alameda Countywide Clean Water Program

(510) 670-5543 | www.cleanwaterprogram.com

Contra Costa Clean Water Program

(800) NO-DUMPING | (800) 663-8674 | www.cccleanwater.org

Fairfield-Suisun Urban Runoff Management Program

(707) 429-8930

Marin Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

(415) 499-6528 | www.mcstoppp.org

San Mateo Countywide Stormwater Pollution Prevention Program

(650) 363-4305 | www.flowstobay.org

Vallejo Sanitation and Flood Control District

(707) 644-8949 | www.vsfcd.com

The Bay Area Stormwater Management Agencies Association (BASMAA)

is a voluntary cooperative organization of local stormwater and watershed agencies that promote stewardship among Bay Area residents of their local creeks and watersheds, and the Bay and Delta.

BAY AREA STORMWATER MANAGEMENT AGENCIES ASSOCIATION

1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400 | Oakland, CA 94612 | 510-622-2326 | www.baywise.info

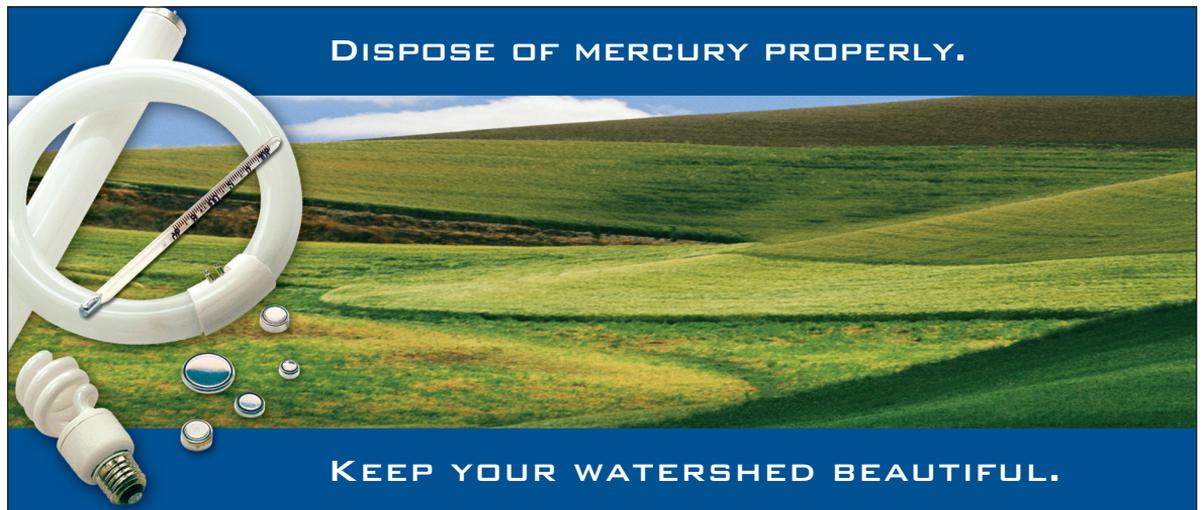


Our Watershed



Our Watershed

HOW YOU CAN KEEP IT BEAUTIFUL.



DISPOSE OF MERCURY PROPERLY.

KEEP YOUR WATERSHED BEAUTIFUL.

At a time where appreciating and protecting our watershed is critical, there is a serious threat that you may not even know about: mercury. Did you know that a single drop of mercury can contaminate an entire lake? About two-thirds of the mercury in our environment comes from man-made sources. If you haven't thought about mercury as an environmental pollutant before, now's the time to start. Mercury can be found in many household products, including thermometers, fluorescent light bulbs, thermostats and old solvents. When mercury is introduced into the environment, it contaminates the plants, fish and wildlife that live in these waterways – it can also affect human health. And remember, these are the plants and fish that are part of our diets, too. You can help keep our water healthy and clean:

- Avoid products that contain mercury
- Recycle light bulbs that contain mercury
- Take products that contain mercury to a household hazardous waste facility
- Recycle button batteries (e.g., watch-style batteries)
- Replace mercury thermostats and thermometers with digital ones

For more information, call **1-800-CLEANUP**. Or visit www.cleanup.org.





PLEASE DON'T LITTER.

KEEP YOUR WATERSHED BEAUTIFUL.

Our watershed is among the most beautiful in the world. Yet each year, we damage our watershed without thinking about it. While landfills and recycling efforts help us to manage our waste, a large amount of our trash still remains on our streets. Litter, cigarette butts and pet waste are washed down storm drains through urban runoff. These pollutants flow through the storm drain system, untreated, and pour into our creeks and the Bay. Besides being an eyesore, these pollutants destroy our watershed and the life it supports. Litter and cigarette butts can cause wildlife to become sick or even die. You can help keep our water healthy and clean:

- Put litter in appropriate disposal bins
- Recycle and reuse to reduce trash
- Use ashtrays and empty into trash cans
- Make sure all trash can lids are tightly shut
- Bag and put pet waste in a trash can



RECYCLE USED MOTOR OIL.

KEEP YOUR WATERSHED BEAUTIFUL.

Everyday we drive in one of the most naturally beautiful areas in the world. But our automobiles can make our watershed unhealthy. When auto fluids—such as motor oil and antifreeze—leak onto our driveways and streets they get washed down storm drains and go directly into our creeks and the Bay untreated. Auto fluids in our waterways can cause the creatures and plants that depend on the water to become sick or die. Our watershed is just that ... ours. Everyone can prevent watershed pollution. You can help keep our water healthy and clean:

- Recycle used motor oil and filters
- Keep automobiles properly maintained to prevent leaks
- Take your automobile to a car wash instead of washing at home
- Dispose of fluids at a household hazardous waste facility
- Use kitty litter to clean up auto fluid spills
- Report any illegal dumping

For more information, call **1-800-CLEANUP**. Or visit www.cleanup.org.



A hand is shown holding a yellow spray bottle with a red trigger and cap. The bottle has a black label with the word "PESTICIDE" in white, bold, italicized letters. The background is a photograph of a row of modern, two-story suburban houses with light-colored siding and dark roofs. The sky is blue with some clouds.

USE LESS PESTICIDES & FERTILIZERS.

KEEP YOUR WATERSHED BEAUTIFUL.

Nothing is wrong with keeping a beautiful home and lawn. But water pollution occurs when toxic pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers are used ... and used too much. Rain and yard watering wash pesticides and fertilizers down gutters and into storm drains. These chemicals end up in our creeks and the Bay, where they poison wildlife, fish and plants. They can also make our children and families sick when they play and swim in these waterways. You can help keep our water healthy and clean:

- Read pesticide and fertilizer instruction labels before using
- Use smaller amounts of pesticides and fertilizers
- Use earth-friendly products
- Don't overwater your lawn and garden
- Don't use pesticides or fertilizers when rain is forecasted

For more information on stormwater pollution prevention, call **1-888-BAYWISE**. Or visit our website www.baywise.info.



Our Watershed

WHAT IS A WATERSHED?

A watershed is a land area that drains water into a creek, river, wetland or bay. We live in a watershed. Our watershed, includes our foothills, lawns, roadways and storm drains which drain our water directly into local creeks and the San Francisco Bay.

HOW IS OUR WATERSHED POLLUTED?

Ironically, residents like you and me – not big business – are the biggest polluters. When rain and excess water flows across the ground, it picks up the auto fluids, oil, litter and toxic residues we leave on the ground during our daily activities. This water, called "urban runoff," flows through storm drains untreated to our creeks and the Bay.

Most of our pollution isn't intentional. Leaky cars leave behind auto fluids on streets. We overuse toxic lawn fertilizers and pesticides and overwater our lawns and gardens. We don't make sure our cigarette butts and litter make it to proper disposal containers. All of these foreign materials are carried along in our urban runoff directly to our creeks and storm drains ... directly to our wetlands and the Bay. Usually ... these harmful materials never go through a treatment plant on this journey.

IS THERE A SOLUTION?

Our watershed is our home. It's our responsibility to keep it clean, healthy ... beautiful. Of course, we can't stop driving or watering our lawns completely, but we can slightly adjust our daily habits to reduce the amount of pollution we create. Your individual effort will be an important contribution to a community-wide accomplishment. Please do your part to reduce your pollution.

- Properly dispose of trash and cigarette butts.
- Use less toxic yard chemicals.
- Keep autos leak free and recycle used motor oil.
- Learn about mercury products as an environmental threat.



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EACH ONE OF US CAN HELP.

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