

TRASH / LITTER

Who wants to live or visit a community with litter lined streets, sidewalks, and parks?

These areas are impacted daily with cigarette butts, fast food wrappers, pet waste, soda cans and coffee cups. But litter is more than an eyesore; it's actually harmful to our waterways local streams, creeks, and beaches. There are simple steps you can take as a litter conscious person to help keep waste out of our community and local watersheds.

- Set an example for others by not littering and properly disposing of pet waste.
- Carry a litter bag in your vehicle.
- Volunteer to help in local beach and stream cleanup efforts.
- Make sure that your dumpsters and trash cans have securely fastened lids.
- Take a bag with you when you walk your dog.
- Put all recyclable material in correct bins.
- Set a good example, stop and pick-up litter or debris when the opportunity presents itself.

DOG WASTE

Pet waste left on the ground contributes harmful bacteria, parasites and viruses in our waterways. Shovel up animal waste, seal it in a bag and throw it away in a garbage can or flush it down the toilet. Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local waterbodies.



HORSE PASTURE MANAGEMENT

Horse owners have special responsibility, not only for the health and well-being of their horses, but for preventing manure and pastures from contributing to runoff pollution. When rain falls on pastures and manure piles, the rain washes those wastes into local streams, causing nutrient loading and pathogen pollution. Recommended actions to prevent pollution in creeks include using a covered compost bin to compost manure, set pastures back 100 feet from any stream, keep facilities off steep slopes, develop filter strips (at least 10 foot wide area with meadow like vegetation that will filter runoff when it flows off a pasture area), and try to prevent storm water from flowing through pasture areas. Help keep our creeks and beaches clean.



ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For additional educational information regarding conservation measures in Southern California please visit the following websites.



United States Environmental Protection Agency
www.epa.gov/region9



THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT
OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
www.mwdh2o.com

bewaterwise.com

Be Water Wise
bewaterwise.com



Don't Trash California
www.donttrashcalifornia.info

CITY OF CALABASAS
100 Civic Center Way
Calabasas, CA 91302



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WATER CONSERVATION IS KEY

Tips to reduce water usage, run-off and litter in our community

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URBAN / STORMWATER RUNOFF

Did you know that urban runoff water from rain storms discharge directly into our local creeks, rivers, lakes and eventually the Pacific Ocean?

Unlike the sewer system, which carries wastewater (sewage) from indoor drains (i.e. sink, toilet, and bathtub) to a wastewater treatment plant, the storm drain system releases storm water directly into creeks and streams untreated. The reason for this is simple: when it rains, wastewater treatment plants can't handle the vast amount of run-off that is created almost instantly. This means that any trash, bacteria, nutrients or hazardous chemicals which are exposed to rain or dumped in the street can pollute our local watersheds.



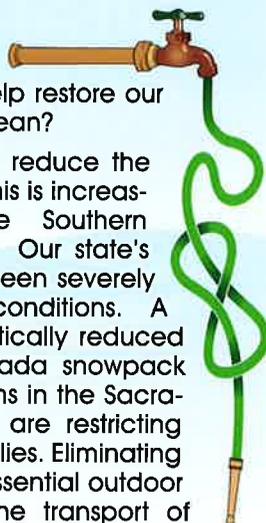
WHAT IS STORM WATER POLLUTION?

Storm water pollution is untreated water that drains from the surface of streets and yards through the storm drain system. Water from rain, hoses and leaky sprinklers pick up pollutants and floatables along the way and carry them to their final resting place – our watersheds. Pollutants and floatables include pet waste, cigarette butts, Styrofoam cups, fast-food wrappers, water mixed with chemicals, motor oil and car fluids, and pesticides. The City of Calabasas is helping to combat this problem with regular street cleaning, water filtration devices, and drop off facilities for used oil and paint.

WATER CONSERVATION

What else can we do to help restore our rivers, creeks, lakes and ocean?

One effective choice is to reduce the amount of water we use. This is increasingly important because Southern California is in a drought! Our state's main water sources have been severely impacted by record dry conditions. A very dry spring has dramatically reduced runoff from the Sierra Nevada snowpack and environmental problems in the Sacramento San Joaquin Delta are restricting transportation of water supplies. Eliminating irrigation run-off and non-essential outdoor water use help prevent the transport of pollutants into stormdrains.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?

- Pick up pet waste on a regular basis. Never wash pet waste out into the street or into the storm drain.
- Reduce the amount of water, fertilizers and pesticides you use. Do not apply material onto sidewalks, curbs, streets, and other non-porous surfaces.
- Never pour any hazardous waste, green waste, construction debris down the gutter, storm drain or onto the ground. This causes considerable pollution, is against the law, and can result in significant penalties.
- Whenever possible, use a rake or broom to clean the yard, driveway, and gutters.
- Wash your car at a commercial car wash or a permeable surface to keep grease and detergents from entering the storm drain system.
- Cover outdoor receptacles.
- Promptly fix vehicles that leak fluid. Place absorbent material such as cat litter box material on any drips to clean up spills and dispose of in the trash.
- Don't litter; always dispose of trash inside of trash containers.
- To report sewage spills or illegal dumping, please contact (888) Clean-LA.



In response to statewide drought conditions, the following conservation measures are now in effect for all of us:

- Irrigation may not occur between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.
- No washing down hardscape with a hose. Table service restaurants may serve water only on request.
- Hotels must provide multiple-night guests the option to retain towels & linens.
- Customers requested to irrigate at least one less day per week.
- Customers requested to replace lawn areas with water-efficient plants.
- The cooperation of all customers is needed for these measures to be effective in reducing water use.

The following are also good common sense conservation measures:

- Take short showers instead of baths and avoid letting faucets run unnecessarily.
- Wash your car only when necessary; use a bucket to save water; wash on the lawn rather than the driveway. Alternatively use a commercial car wash or a permitted mobile car wash company that properly disposes of runoff properly.
- We're more likely to notice leaky faucets indoors, but don't forget to check outdoor faucets, pipes and hoses for leaks.
- Check your local Water District website for assistance making water conservation changes in your home and various rebate opportunities.
- Encourage your friends and neighbors to be part of a water-conscious community.



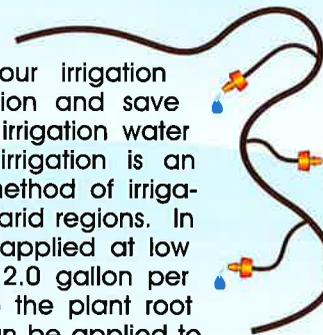
WATER-WISE IRRIGATION

Saving water is important in our area because 100% of the water supply must be imported from 400 miles away. Since landscape irrigation consumes approximately 70% of the water in our region, well-designed and tuned irrigation systems featuring drip irrigation or rotating nozzles instead of spray nozzles are a great way to save water and to ensure the health of your landscape plantings.



DRIP IRRIGATION

You can change your irrigation system to drip irrigation and save 30% to 50% of your irrigation water consumption. Drip irrigation is an efficient alternative method of irrigation for arid and semiarid regions. In this method water is applied at low pressure rate (0.5 to 2.0 gallon per hour), precisely on to the plant root zone. This method can be applied to plants with both, high and low water demand. It reduces water contact with leaves and stems and decreases the possibility of fungus infection in plants.



HELPFUL WATER-WISE TIPS

- Check irrigation systems for leaks, broken, sunken or misdirected sprinkler heads.
- When it's hot, deep soak your landscaping once or twice a week. It's better and more frugal than more frequent, shallow applications.
- Avoid watering on windy days or at mid-day, when the hot sun evaporates irrigation spray.
- If your system isn't automatic, use a kitchen timer as a shut off reminder.
- Apply a layer of mulch or compost in your garden, to slow evaporation and retain moisture. The Rancho Las Virgenes Composting Facility (located at Las Virgenes Road at the intersection of Lost Hills Road) produces excellent free compost.
- When watering your lawn or garden, use slow water techniques such as trickle irrigation or soaker hoses.
- Aerate your lawn, so water will reach the roots rather than run off the surface.
- Have a plumber re-route your gray water to trees and gardens rather than letting it run into the sewer lines.

WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING:

To reduce the use of water, fertilizer and pesticide around your home, landscape with attractive, and low maintenance native plants. These plants are more tolerant of drought conditions and are better suited to the local soils and pests.

Helpful Landscaping Contacts



Las Virgenes Municipal Water District
(818) 251-2200
www.LVMWD.com



California Native Plant Society
(818) 881-3706
www.cnps.org



Smart Gardening Workshops
(888) CLEAN-LA
www.smartgardening.com