Landscaping and garden maintenance activities can be major contributors to water pollution. Soils, yard wastes, over-watering and garden chemicals become part of the urban runoff mix that winds its way through streets, gutters and storm drains before entering lakes, rivers, streams, etc. Urban runoff pollution contaminates water and harms aquatic life!

In Riverside County, report illegal discharges into the storm drain, call
1-800-506-2555
"Only Rain Down the Storm Drain"

Important Links:

Riverside County Household Hazardous Waste Collection Information
1-800-304-2226 or www.rivcowm.org

Riverside County Backyard Composting Program
1-800-366-SAVE

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Solutions
www.ipm.ucdavis.edu

California Master Gardener Programs
www.mastergardeners.org
www.camastergardeners.ucdavis.edu

California Native Plant Society
www.cnps.org

The Riverside County "Only Rain Down the Storm Drain" Pollution Prevention Program gratefully acknowledges Orange County's Storm Water Program for their contribution to this brochure.

...Only Rain Down ...the Storm Drain

What you should know for... Landscape and Gardening

Best Management tips for:

- Professionals
- Novices
- Landscapers
- Gardeners
- Cultivators

Tips for Landscape & Gardening

This brochure will help you to get the most of your lawn and gardening efforts and keep our waterways clean. Clean waterways provide recreation, establish thriving fish habitats, secure safe sanctuaries for wildlife, and add beauty to our communities. NEVER allow gardening products or waste water to enter the street, gutter or storm drain.

General Landscaping Tips

- Protect stockpiles and materials from wind and rain by storing them under tarps or secured plastic sheeting.
- Prevent erosion of slopes by planting fast-growing, dense ground covering plants. These will shield and bind the soil.

- Plant native vegetation to reduce the amount of water, fertilizers and pesticides applied to the landscape.
- Never apply pesticides or fertilizers when rain is predicted within the next 48 hours.

Garden & Lawn Maintenance

- Do not overwater. Use irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems. Periodically inspect and fix leaks and misdirected sprinklers.
- Do not rake or blow leaves, clippings or pruning waste into the street, gutter or storm drain. Instead, dispose of green waste by composting, hauling it to a permitted landfill, or recycling it through your city's program.

- Consider recycling your green waste and adding "nature's own fertilizer" to your lawn or garden.
- Read labels and use only as directed. Do not over-apply pesticides or fertilizers. Apply to spots as needed, rather than blanketing an entire area.
- Store pesticides, fertilizers and other chemicals in a dry covered area to prevent exposure that may result in the deterioration of containers and packaging.
- Rinse empty pesticide containers and re-use rinse water as you would use the product. Do not dump rinse water down storm drains or sewers. Dispose of empty containers in the trash.
- When available, use non-toxic alternatives to traditional pesticides, and use pesticides specifically designed to control the pest you are targeting.
- Try natural long-term common sense solutions first. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) can provide landscaping guidance and solutions, such as:
  - **Physical Controls** - Try hand picking, barriers, traps or caulking holes to control weeds and pests.
  - **Biological Controls** - Use predatory insects to control harmful pests.
  - **Chemical Controls** - Check out www.ipm.ucdavis.edu before using chemicals. Remember, all chemicals should be used cautiously and in moderation.
- If fertilizer is spilled, sweep up the spill before irrigating. If the spill is liquid, apply an absorbent material such as cat litter, and then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash.
- Take unwanted pesticides to a Household Waste Collection Center to be recycled.
- *Dumping toxics into the street, gutter or storm drain is illegal!*

www.bewaterwise.com Great water conservation tips and drought tolerant garden designs.

www.ourwaterourworld.com Learn how to safely manage home and garden pests.

Additional information can also be found on the back of this brochure.