

UNCHAIN THE RAIN & SET IT FREE

Storm water runoff is rainwater or snowmelt that flows over the ground. As storm water flows from your rooftop onto pavement, it picks up visible & invisible garbage, dirt, chemicals and other pollutants – which all empty, untreated, directly into the Delta. The illegal dumping of garbage & pollutants into storm drains causes a chain reaction of damage that must be stopped. For example, motor oil, cigarette butts, and other garbage dumped & washed into storm drains are visible eyesores that are strangling the Delta. Equally damaging are invisible silent killers such as insecticides & chemicals in dirt that's carried by rainwater into the Delta. To save this fragile environment, citizens must take responsibility for keeping storm drains clean!



ORCHESTRATE THE DELTA WATER REVIVAL

Turn the tides on storm water pollution today by taking responsibility for keeping storm drains clean – so that future generations can sing “The Delta Water Revival.”

- Understand that everything going into storm drains empties, **UNTREATED**, directly into the Delta (NOT into a sanitary sewer system!).
- Join with neighbors to locate the storm drain you share with them. Then, clean a path from gutters to your storm drain by sweeping and scooping up dirt and litter into garbage containers (NOT down the storm drain!).
- Keep this brochure as a guideline for what you and members of your household can do to prevent storm drain pollution.

DON'T BE AFRAID TO JUST CALL (OR SURF) ME

City of Pittsburg

To report illegal dumping down storm drains:
1-800-No Dumping (663-8674) or (925) 252-4936

For more information:

www.ci.pittsburg.ca.us
(under Handy Links, select *Stormwater/NPDES*)

Contra Costa Clean Water Program

www.ccleanwater.org



City of Pittsburg
Clean Water Program
65 Civic Avenue
Pittsburg, CA 94565
252-4920 or 252-4110

Protect The Delta.
Keep Local Storm Drains Clean.

*Storm drains are NOT sewers!
Everything going into storm drains
empties, untreated, directly into the Delta.*



KEEP THE DELTA ALIVE.

STOP STORM DRAIN POLLUTION!



TUNE IN TO THE DELTA WATER BLUES

While Elvis rocked the nation on black & white TVs, Pittsburg residents were spending summer weekends at the Delta, sunbathing on litter-free beaches, swimming in clean waters, and catching healthy fish. A decade later as the Beatles and “water pollution” gained national attention, picnickers and boaters started complaining about the polluted waters and litter along Delta shores. Residents depending on the Delta started to worry about the water quality to their homes. Water pollution escalated into the next decade as rappers expressed social distress about the “toxic soup” contaminating our waterways from untreated storm drain runoff. Today, the Pittsburg community has reason to cry “The Delta Water Blues” as pollutants in storm water, illegal dumping of toxins, and littering of storm drains place a death grip on waterways.

**NO DUMPING!
DRAINS TO DELTA**



IT'S RAINING ALL THE TIME TO DELTA WILDLIFE

Storm drain pollution is literally killing the habitat of the Delta, its creeks, and ultimately the ocean. If the birds, fish and mammals of the Delta could voice their distress, they would share stories of illness and mutation from garbage, oil, insecticides, and other hazardous waste infecting their environment.

It's up to you to keep the Delta alive and stop storm drain pollution!



DON'T BE CRUEL TO A DELTA ONCE PURE

Your storm drains are only for clean rain! Nothing else should ever go into them. The NO list below shows the main pollutants infecting the Delta, its creeks, and the ocean:

- NO antifreeze/transmission fluids
- NO cigarette butts
- NO newspaper
- NO construction waste
- NO cooking grease
- NO detergents/soaps
- NO dirt, gravel or sand
- NO garbage or household recyclables (plastics, Styrofoam, cans, newspaper, etc.)
- NO home improvement waste (paint, concrete, mortar, etc.)
- NO motor oil/filters
- NO paint/painting products
- NO pesticides, fertilizers or herbicides
- NO pet or human waste (disposable diapers)
- NO sewage
- NO solvents/degreasers
- NO yard waste (leaves, grass, clippings, mulch, etc.)

Waste washed down the storm drain ends up in the Delta infecting wildlife and drinking water.



SHAKE, RATTLE & ROLL OUT NEW HABITS

Once you and your neighbors make a commitment to keep your storm drains clean, use the tips below to help revive the Delta!

Auto maintenance...yard work...home improvement...personal habits...

- Keep auto leaks repaired. Use oil spill pad or collection pan under autos to collect leaks.
- When changing oil, don't spill – do recycle used motor oil and filters.*
- Use a commercial car wash or wash autos on a lawn or other unpaved surface, using hose shutoff valve (to conserve water) and biodegradable or nontoxic soap.
- Don't hose spilled oil, brake fluid, grease or antifreeze into the street – instead, wipe or scoop up and dispose of properly.*
- Conserve water while protecting the Delta by sweeping & properly disposing of waste around home & in gutters – don't hose!
- Conserve more water and feed lawns by leaving grass clippings on lawn when mowing.
- Plant drought-resistant native plants that conserve water – don't overwater!
- Compost or recycle leaves, grass clippings, fruit and vegetable scraps.
- Use plastic bags for pet poop, cat litter & disposable diapers; tie up bags and place in garbage containers only.
- Use compost, other organic/botanical products or slow-release nitrogen fertilizer for landscaping & gardens.

- Discourage the need for insecticides in your home by keeping surfaces clean, storing food & water in sealed containers, sealing cracks, and keeping windows/doors airtight.
- Use safe pest controls such as diluted soap solutions and botanicals (pyrethrins and horticultural oils & plants that attract beneficial insects & species).
- If you must use pesticides or herbicides, use sparingly and follow directions. Do not apply if rain is forecast.
- Pour dirty water from home cleaning projects into sinks or down toilets that drain into sanitary sewer.
- Make sure washing machine water drains properly into sanitary sewer.
- During home improvement & construction projects, sweep and scoop up dirt, sand, rocks, sawdust, etc. into garbage containers – don't hose!
- After using water-based paint, rinse paintbrushes in sink that drains to sanitary sewer.
- After using oil-based paints, filter and reuse paint thinner to clean brushes.
- Never pour paint or painting products in the gutter or storm drain.
- Never litter the ground or pavement with cigarette butts.
- Use cleaning products inside & outside that are phosphate-free, biodegradable and nontoxic.
- Avoid cleaning products with ammonia, chlorine, diethylene glycol, hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid, and petroleum solvents.



2500 Pittsburg-Antioch Highway
www.ddsd.org (925) 756-1990

CRY ME A RIVER OVER PLASTICS

Before water pollution became epidemic in our culture, folks filled their own reusable water and beverage containers, washed them when necessary, then refilled them again and again. Today, convenience-driven consumers purchase water and designer drinks by the case in disposable plastic bottles that are often shrink-wrapped in plastic, secured in plastic rings, and/or packed in plastic grocery bags! As a result, alarming volumes of plastics now infect our waterways from careless littering into storm drains that empty, untreated, into the Delta.

Beyond the eyesore of this litter, most plastic bottles are made of petroleum and do not decompose. Instead, they “photo-degrade” when sunlight breaks them into progressively smaller pieces. Worse yet, this plastic absorbs DDT, PCBs, and other life-threatening pollutants that are contaminating and killing birds, fish and other marine species that eat the plastic, mistaking it for plankton.

The cure for this epidemic goes beyond community support for “no littering.” Each person can make a world of difference by developing better buying and recycling habits. To get started right away, reuse and refill plastic water bottles – and recycle all plastics whenever possible.



Invisible killers: About 70 million pounds of pesticides are applied to urban lawns in the U.S. each year, averaging 5 to 7 pounds of pesticides per acre. Fertilizer contains large amounts of nitrogen and phosphorous, which can cause harmful algal blooms in waterways, robbing water of oxygen and light essential to plant and animal life.