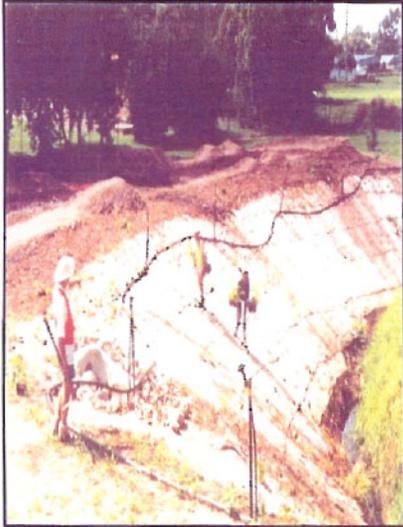


CONSTRUCTION



Erosion controls that aren't maintained can cause excessive amounts of sediment and debris to be carried into the stormwater system. Construction vehicles can leak fuel, oil and other harmful fluids that can be picked up by storm water and deposited into local waterways.

- Divert stormwater away from disturbed or exposed areas of the construction site.
- Install silt fences, vehicle mud removal areas, vegetative cover and other sediment and erosion controls and properly maintain them, especially after rainstorms.
- Prevent soil erosion by minimizing disturbed areas during construction projects, and seed and mulch bare areas as soon as possible.

Who is the Lake County Clean Water Program?

The Lake County Clean Water Program (Program) is a consortium of local agencies that are required by the State Water Resources Control Board to implement, promote and enforce stormwater pollution prevention practices in Lake County. The Program consists of three (3) public agencies: the County of Lake, City of Clearlake and City of Lakeport. The overarching goal of the Program is to reduce pollutants from entering the stormwater conveyance system and local water bodies through the effective implementation of stormwater pollution prevention activities.

For more information on:

Lawn and Garden Care	University of California Cooperative Extension: (707) 263-6838	
Spills or Septic Systems	Lake County Environmental Health: (707) 263-8929 or (707) 994-2257	
Recycling and Hazardous Materials Disposal	Lake County Public Services: (707) 263-1980	
Stormwater Pollution Prevention Practices for:	City of Lakeport	(707) 263-5613
	City of Clearlake	(707) 994-8201
	Unincorporated County	(707) 263-2341 or (707) 994-4828

STORMWATER POLLUTION

A Guide to Reducing Stormwater Pollution in Lake County



LAKE COUNTY CLEAN WATER PROGRAM

County of Lake, City of Clearlake and City of Lakeport

What is stormwater runoff?

A large majority of all precipitation that hits the ground in Lake County is eventually transported to a waterbody (untreated) through stormwater runoff. Stormwater runoff occurs when rainwater hits surfaces like streets, parking lots and roofs and travels through gutters, storm drains, creeks and eventually into the major source of our drinking water, Clear Lake.

Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater pollution is caused in two ways: (1) directly, when individuals pour pollutants into storm drains or water bodies; and (2) indirectly, when water flowing over streets, parking lots and yards carries contaminants such as motor oil and pesticides, into the storm drain system.

Stormwater discharges have emerged as one of the leading causes of impairment of the Nation's surface waters (USEPA)

What are the effects of stormwater pollution?

Stormwater pollution can pose a serious health risk to people due to bacteria and chemicals that are washed from our streets into waterbodies via storm water runoff. For example, water quality in Clear Lake is currently impaired by **mercury** and **excess nutrients**. A potential source of these pollutants is stormwater runoff.

SOLUTIONS TO STORMWATER POLLUTION

By practicing pollution prevention habits, homeowners and businesses can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass trimmings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy household and business habits and help protect your local creek and Clear Lake from stormwater pollution. Also, remember to share the habits with your neighbors and co-workers!!



Lake County is home to roughly 64,000 people, 1,150 businesses and the largest natural freshwater lake within California. Known as the Bass



Capital of the West, Clear Lake currently provides habitat for a large population of sport fish and wildlife, including ducks, pelicans, grebes, blue herons, egrets, and osprey, and winter populations of bald eagles and white pelicans. Additionally, many residents use Clear Lake for other types of recreational activities, including skiing, boating and swimming. Clear Lake is also the main water supply for municipal drinking water. Therefore, all resident and businesses in Lake County rely on clean

RESIDENTIAL

Lawn and Garden Care

Excess fertilizers and pesticides applied to lawns and gardens wash off and pollute streams and lakes. In addition, yard trimmings and leaves can wash into storm drains and contribute excess nutrients to streams and lakes.



- Find alternative ways to control pests inside and outside your home, without using toxic chemical pesticides. If you do use pesticides, use them sparingly. Do not use them outside if rain is forecast within 24 hours.
- Pick up leaves and yard clippings and recycle as green waste.
- Take left over pesticides to your local household waste collection facility.

Automotive Care

Washing your car and degreasing parts at home can send detergents and other pollutants into the storm sewer system. Dumping automobile fluids into storm drains has the same result as dumping the materials directly into a waterbody.



- Take your car to a commercial care wash that treats or recycles washwater, or wash your care on your yard so that water seeps into the ground.
- If you change your oil, recycle the waste oil at your local household hazardous waste collection facility. Never pour oil or other automotive fluids into a storm drain or onto the ground.
- Use kitty litter or other absorbent materials—**not your hose**—to clean up spill and leaks on paved surfaces.

Around the House

Household products and trash can kill fish and wildlife if not disposed of properly.



- Rinse latex paint brushes, pans and rollers in the sink. Filter and reuse oil-based paint thinner or brush cleaners.
- Take leftover latex and oil based solvents to your local household hazardous waste collection facility.
- Clean up trash outside your home.

Septic Systems

Leaking or poorly maintained septic systems can release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby water bodies.



- Inspect your system every 3 years or pump your tank as necessary (every 3-5 years).
- Never dispose of household hazardous waste in the sink or toilet.

Dirt, oil and debris that collect in parking lots and paved areas can be washed into the storm sewer systems and eventually enter local waterbodies.



- Sweep up litter and debris from sidewalks, driveways and parking lots, especially around storm drains.
- Cover grease storage bins and dumpsters to avoid contact with rainwater.
- Dump mop water in a sink, not in the street or in a storm drain.

BUSINESSES

