

COMMON POLLUTANTS



- Bacteria, parasites, and viruses (salmonella, E. coli, heart worms, whipworms, hookworms, roundworms, parvovirus, giardia)
- Chemicals (flea and tick treatments and equipment cleaners)
- Dirt and sediment
- Hair, fur, and nail waste
- Nutrients (nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium)
- Pet waste (feces and urine)
- Shampoos, and conditioners
- Soaps, detergents and disinfectants
- Wastewater

TIP: Keep your pets healthy by picking up waste before each storm and whenever you are out and about.

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

The Cities of Buellton, Carpinteria, Goleta, Lompoc, Santa Barbara, and Solvang, and the County of Santa Barbara have extensive Stormwater Management Programs, with a great selection of information and useful tools to help protect the environment.

Did you know? Just one gram of dog waste contains millions of bacteria, and pet waste can lead to beach closures when enough dog waste is left behind. Also, domestic cats can carry a parasite (*Toxoplasma gondii*) that exclusively reproduces in cats and is present in their feces which can cause life-threatening birth defects in pregnant women and contribute to marine mammal mortality.

For the location of FREE local household hazardous waste or e-waste collection events, visit your city's Solid Waste webpage, your waste hauler's website, or **Less is More** at <http://lessismore.org>.

ONLY RAIN DOWN THE STORM DRAIN

ABOUT THIS GUIDE

Many pet owners don't realize their habits and actions may affect our local streams, creeks, lakes, rivers, and the ocean. Pollutants from pet-related sources can be picked up while watering or when it rains and then be transported to the nearest storm drain inlet and into our waterways.

This guide provides information about how to reduce impacts to stormwater associated with caring for various kinds of pets (birds, cats, dogs, rabbits, reptiles, rodents, snakes, etc.) at your home. You can help reduce water pollution year-round by implementing the BMPs in this guide.



PET OWNERS BMPs

MINIMIZING TOXIC CHEMICAL USE

- Consider less toxic grooming practices by using eco-friendly products and equipment that reduce product amount and use less water.
- Store all chemicals, cleaning and grooming products either indoors or outdoors in a waterproof vessel.
- When controlling fleas, consider using chewable pills instead of topical solutions to prevent washing chemicals into the sanitary system. Most wastewater treatment plants cannot remove the complex chemicals in flea medications. To learn more about less-toxic flea products or alternatives, visit **Our Water Our World** at <https://ourwaterourworld.org>.

Did you know? Some cleaning products labeled "non-toxic" and "biodegradable" are still not safe. "Non-toxic" means the product is not toxic to the user. "Biodegradable" means the product will eventually break down. These products are still harmful to wildlife and the environment.



WASTEWATER

- Wash pet cages (birds, reptiles, rodents, snakes, etc.) or fish tanks on a vegetated area or in a bathtub where wash water discharges into the sanitary system.
- Pets should be bathed indoors at home or at an off-site pet washing station. Otherwise, bathe pets on lawn or other permeable surfaces to prevent wash water from entering street, gutter, or storm drain. To learn about BMPs mobile pet groomers, visit your city's Stormwater Management webpage.



WASTE MANAGEMENT

- Bring pet waste bags with you whenever you are out with your dog and if you forget them, use dog waste or "mutt mitt" stations.
- Promptly pick up pet waste and toss it in the trash, even when you use biodegradable bags. Never leave it on the ground, particularly where it can be washed away by rain or ocean tides.
- Dispose of non-toxic packaging and waste products such as hair, fur and nails from grooming and styling activities in the trash and/or recycling containers.
- When cleaning out pet cages make sure to throw soiled bedding into a leak-proof garbage can.
- Contain used cat litter in bags and dispose of it in the trash. Cat litter should never be flushed down the toilet, even if the package says it is safe to flush!
- Dispose of unwanted/expired chemicals via your local household hazardous waste collection event and/or drop-off your unwanted/expired medicines or used sharps at a participating Med-Project location. To find drop-off locations for safe disposal of medicines and sharps within California, visit **Med-Project** at <https://Med-Project.org>.



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT OUR PARTNERING AGENCIES



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