

Protecting Storm Water from contamination is critical to helping to protect our environment.

Only Rain Down The Drain!



Everything that goes down a storm drain goes directly into our rivers and streams, and ultimately our oceans, without treatment.

Do your part to protect the environment and keep our waterways healthy by keeping pollutants out of our storm drainage system

What is a Watershed?

A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point, such as a nearby creek, stream, river or lake. Every small watershed drains to a larger watershed that eventually flows to the ocean.

Watersheds support a wide variety of plants and wildlife and provide many outdoor recreation opportunities. Protecting the health of our watersheds preserves and enhances the quality San Diego area residents.

The VA San Diego Healthcare System is located with the Peñasquitos Hydrologic Unit of the San Diego Region. The Peñasquitos Hydrologic Unit is relatively dry with annual precipitation at VASDHS averaging approximately 8 to 10 inches per year.

What is Stormwater Runoff?

Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow. It flows from rooftops, over paved streets, sidewalks and parking lots, across bare soil, and through lawns and storm drains. As it flows, runoff collects and transports soil, pet waste, salt, pesticides, fertilizer, oil and grease, litter and other pollutants. This water directly into nearby creeks, streams and rivers, without receiving treatment at sewage plants.

Storm Water Management and Pollution Prevention

VA San Diego Healthcare System



VA
HEALTH
CARE | Defining
EXCELLENCE
in the 21st Century

Causes of Water Pollution

Storm water that comes in contact with pollutants already on the ground such as oil, litter, heavy metals, pesticides, fertilizers, and sediment, which then becomes contaminated

Direct dumping of pollutants (automotive fluids, wash water, paint waste) into storm drains

Fecal Coliform Bacteria, from sanitary sewer overflows and pet excrement



Storm Drainage Systems do not go to a treatment plant but discharge directly into our creeks & rivers, and then flow, ultimately, into our oceans.



Common Water Pollutants

Oil & Grease

Wash Water

Litter

Fertilizers

Chemicals

Pet Excrement

Sediment

Heavy Metals

What You Can Do:

Don't dump anything in a storm drain

Pick up litter

Make sure your car doesn't leak fluids

Minimize use of fertilizer

Pick up your pet waste

Report if you see any pollutants on the ground or entering a storm drain

Water Pollution Reporting

Contact GEMS 858-626-8770

After Hours: VASDHS PD 858-642-393

Resources

- VA San Diego Healthcare System <https://www.sandiego.va.gov>
- San Diego Region Quality Control Board <https://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sandiego>
- EPA – Pacific Southwest, Region 9 <https://www3.epa.gov/region9/water/npdes/stormwater.html>
- To request a copy of the Pollution Prevention Program, contact the Environment, Health & Safety Office at 858-642-1060.