

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

Only rain down the storm drain

What is stormwater runoff?

Stormwater runoff is one of the leading causes of water pollution in the United States. Stormwater will pick up pollutants as it flows over roofs, driveways, lawns, and streets.



Where does it go?

In Los Banos, stormwater runoff flows directly from streets and storm drains into local ponds and waterways, then out to wetlands. Stormwater is not treated at the wastewater treatment plant before entering US waterways.

What is litter and why is it a problem?

Litter is **waste** (trash or recycling) that is not contained in a waste bin. Litter is a serious stormwater pollutant and it can easily end up in waterways and make its way to the ocean. Both aquatic and land animals mistake small pieces of plastic as food and can become sick or die from the toxins attached to the plastics or die of starvation from plastic blocking their digestive tracts. Plastic also poses entanglement risks for wildlife.

We can all help prevent waste from ending up as litter.

Here's how you can help:

- Always pick up litter when you drop it.
- Keep lids on trash, recycling, and organics bins closed to keep rainwater out and to prevent wind from blowing waste out of the bin.
- Keep waste secured inside vehicles so it won't blow out when a door or window is opened.
- Never place loose waste in the back of a vehicle with an open bed.
- If you can't find a trash or recycling bin, hold on to your waste until you find one.



Preventing pollution is a job for all of us.

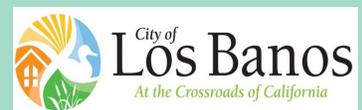
Preventing litter and other pollutants from entering our storm drains can protect wildlife and humans alike.

Common stormwater pollutants:

- Litter
- Chlorinated pool water
- Pet waste
- Dirt
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Yard trimmings
- Soaps and detergents

City of Los Banos Public Works Department

www.losbanos.org | (209) 827-7044



Please keep our City clean.

Follow these tips to prevent pollutants from entering our storm drains!

Los Banos Municipal Code Sec. 6-13.110 & Sec. 6-13.124

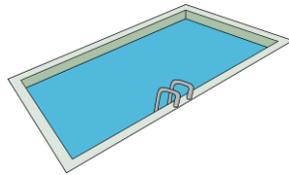
1 Sweep dirt back onto your landscaping and place yard debris into your green cart. **Never blow these materials into the street.**



5 Use only dry clean-up methods, never wash anything into the street or storm drain.



2 Drain pool water into the sewer. Pool water can become a storm water pollutant when it is green, brown, white, contains chemicals, or comes from a saltwater pool.



6 Pick up after your pets and dispose of their waste in the trash bin, not in the organics bin or yard material piles in the street. Pet waste can contain bacteria and can be a harmful source of storm water pollution.



3 Dispose of household hazardous waste at the Billy Wright Landfill. See www.mcrwma.org/31/Household-Hazardous-Waste for details or contact (209) 826-1163.



7 Wash vehicles at the car wash. Car washes have oil/water separators that help to recycle wash water and dispose of wastewater safely. If you wash your car at home, use a small amount of water and soap labeled "non-toxic", "phosphate free", or "biodegradable". Make sure that all dirty water flows into your landscaping. You can also use a waterless carwash kit.



4 Use pesticides and herbicides only if necessary and according to the instructions.



8 Never wash materials from exposed aggregate concrete, asphalt, or similar into a street, gutter or storm drain. Do not store or dump materials in the street.

