CITY OF SANTEE

Yard & Garden Maintenance

WHAT IS STORM WATER?

Storm water is the untreated, contaminated water that flows over streets, parking lots, and other surfaces picking up pollutants along the way.

WHERE DOES IT GO?

The storm drain system is separate from the sewer system. All the water that enters these drains ends up in our creeks, rivers, and ultimately the Pacific Ocean completely untreated!

HOW CAN LAWN/GARDEN MAINTENANCE POLLUTE OUR WATER?

Pollutants typically associated with yard and garden maintenance include: soil, fertilizers, pesticides, plant trimmings and clippings. These items are pollutants and have direct impacts on surface water quality.

WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

The San Diego river flows right through Santee on its way to the Pacific Ocean. It is home to many species, and provides recreation for us. Any pollutant no matter how small can have a big impact downstream.

HOW CAN I PREVENT POLLUTION?

Implement Best Management Practices (seen below) which are practical and cost effective practices for day to day activities which reduce, control, or prevent water pollution.

WHAT IF I USE A LANDSCAPING SERVICE?

Remember, the property owner is ultimately responsible. Make sure materials are not blown into streets, make sure service is licensed to use pesticides, and know how often fertilizers are used. Even professionals can over-use materials.

HOW CAN I PROTECT WATER QUALITY?

- Use an efficient irrigation method and avoid irrigation runoff from over-watering.
- Water in five minute intervals, or less. This will allow water to soak in before the next application.
- Use fertilizers sparingly and consider using an organic fertilizer. DO not apply when rain is expected within 3 days.
- Improve the health of your soil by adding compost and using organic mulches. You'll reduce the need for fertilizers and your plants will be healthier. You will also prevent soil erosion.
- Rather than applying a temporary, chemical only approach, try a natural method such as hand weeding and planting diverse native plants.
- Also consider using beneficial insects instead of pesticides. This will result in a safer long-term solution to insect problems.
- Until vegetation is established, utilize temporary measures such as a tarp for bare soil. Use vegetation, wood chips, or mulch to prevent soil erosion.