Water Pollution Prevention
It's Up to Us!

Riverbank has two drainage systems, the sewer and the ***storm drains***. The storm drain system was designed to prevent flooding by carrying excess rainwater away from city streets and out to our rivers or waterways.

Because the system contains no filters, it now serves the *unintended* function of carrying urban pollution straight to our rivers, and eventually the ocean.

This pamphlet tells you how to prevent river pollution from "stormwater" or "urban runoff."

Rain, industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants creates stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter.

Urban runoff pollution flows to our rivers through the storm drain system – gutters, inlets, retention basins, pipelines, pumping facilities -- that take water and debris straight from Riverbank streets to our rivers and waterways. Each day, polluted urban runoff enters our rivers untreated, leaving toxic chemicals and trash to be carried downstream.

Urban runoff pollution contaminates our rivers, harms aquatic life and increases the risk of flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

The Best Management Practices (BMPs) will ensure cleaner rivers and a cleaner city.

www.riverbank.org

For more information about Storm Drain Protection call:

(209) 863-7127
Development Services Department
City of Riverbank

Recycling & Hazardous Waste Disposal

Stanislaus County Household Hazardous Waste
(209) 525-6700
http://www.stancounty.com/er/hazmat/household-hazardous-waste.shtm

To Report a Clogged Storm Drain or a Spill

City of Riverbank
Public Works Dept. (209) 869-7128
Development Service Dept. (209) 863-7127

Reporting of Illegal Dumping

City of Riverbank Neighborhood Improvement Complaint Line
(209) 863-7190

STORMWATER

Best Management Practices (BMPs)

LANDSCAPE, GARDENING AND PEST CONTROL

Safe Environmental Habits and Procedures for:

Homeowners

Gardeners

Landscapers

Development Services Department

Landscaping, Gardening and Pest Control Best Management Practices

Landscaping and Gardening

- Do not over water. Conserve water by using irrigation practices such as drip irrigation, soaker hoses or micro-spray systems.
- Recycle tree clippings and pruning waste.
- Do not blow or rake leaves into street, gutter or storm drains.
- Plan landscaping activities during dry weather.
- Protect storm drains when doing excavating to prevent soil and sediment from entering the storm drain system.
- Protect stockpiles of materials with tarps or temporary roofs to protect them from rain and wind erosion.
- Place "pruned refuse" for pick up away from the gutter to minimize potential for storm drain intrusion.
- Fertilize using organic or non-toxic products. Do not over fertilize, follow directions for use.
- Store fertilizer in a protected area to prevent run off.
- Use herbicides that are non-toxic. Follow all directions on the label for use.
- Plant California native, drought resistant or low water using plants, flowers, shrubs and ground cover.
- Use your green waste can to dispose of grass clippings and other yard waste that is not pruned refuse.
- Recycle and compost as an alternative for yard wastes.
- Leaves should be picked up and placed into the Organic Can (Green/Gray can).
- Plant vegetation in dirt / exposed areas that have a potential for erosion.
- Over watering will cause run off that carries yard waste, pesticides, herbicides and fertilizers into the storm drain system. Do not over water.

Pesticides and Alternatives

Implement Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

A) Physical Controls
- Caulking holes that pests can get into
- Create barriers to pests
- Remove pests by hand picking
- Use traps

B) Biological Controls
- Predatory insects (e.g. Green lacewings eat aphids)
- Bacterial insecticides (e.g. Bacillus thuringiensis kills Caterpillars)

C) Chemical Controls
- The least toxic products
- Dehydrating dusts (e.g. silica gel)
- Insecticidal soaps
- Boric Acid powder
- Horticultural oils
- Pyrethrin-based insecticides

If You Must Use Chemicals:

- Use a pesticide that is specifically designed to control your pest. The insect should be listed on the label. Approximately 90% of the insects on your lawn and garden are not harmful.
- Read labels and use only as directed. Many home gardeners use pesticides at over 20 times the rate that farmers do.
- Do not use pesticides if rain is expected.
- Never use pesticides near waterways, creeks, rivers or the ocean.

Spill Control:

- Be prepared for spills
- Clean up spills using absorbent materials and then dispose of all waste properly.

Disposal of Chemical Containers:

- Chemical containers that still have product in them cannot go into your regular trash. They are hazardous waste and must be disposed of properly.

- Empty Chemical containers must be rinsed prior to disposal. The rinse water should be used in your garden just the same as the original chemical. It cannot go down the drain.

Do You Know These Garden Insect Helpers?

Lacewings: devour aphids, thrips, mealybugs, scale, spider mites, leafhoppers and insect eggs and can be found on lilac, daisies, goldenrod and other flowers and plants.

Soldier Beetle: eats aphids and other soft bodied insects. Is attracted to Goldenrod.

Dragonfly: goes after flying insects like flies, midges and mosquitoes and is attracted to any of your water plants.

Bee: Needed for pollination of our flowers, plants and vegetables, loves to visit just about every type of flower.

Syrphid Fly: hunts aphids, mealybugs and other pests and pollinates too, just like the bee, loves most flowers.

Ground Beetle: Goes after slugs, snails, cutworms and root maggots and can be found on the ground in your garden.

Spider: Probably the greatest predator in your garden. Goes after many types of insects and can be seen in all parts of your garden.

Parasitic Wasp: Lays its eggs on pests and their eggs. As the larvae hatch, they eat the pest. They like Goldenrod, Buckwheat, Sunflowers and Yarrow.

Tachinid Fly: Eats caterpillars and beetles and is attracted to Buckwheat.

Ladybug: Eats aphids, scale, thrips, mealybugs and spider mites and can be found on Yarrow, Buckwheat, Lilac and Asters.