

**The Watershed  
Should Only  
Shed Water**

# Illicit Discharge Prevention for Business Owners

Learn more about the  
watershed and how you can  
help protect it.

The Community for a Clean Watershed program was established to protect Ventura County's watersheds by preventing stormwater pollution. For more information on keeping our watersheds clean go to [cleanwatershed.org](http://cleanwatershed.org) or contact your community's participating agency:

**Camarillo** 388-5338

**Fillmore** 524-3701

**Moorpark** 517-6257

**Ojai** 640-2560

**Oxnard** 488-3517

**Port Hueneme** 986-6556

**Santa Paula** 933-4212

**Simi Valley** 583-6462

**Thousand Oaks** 449-2400

**Ventura** 667-6502

**Unincorporated Areas  
of Ventura County** 650-4064

COMMUNITY FOR A  
CLEAN WATERSHED



[cleanwatershed.org](http://cleanwatershed.org)

## Where's My Watershed?



### **Ventura River Watershed**

Ventura, Ojai

### **Santa Clara River Watershed**

Ventura, Fillmore, Oxnard,  
Santa Paula, Saticoy,  
Lake Piru, El Rio

### **Calleguas Creek Watershed**

Camarillo, Somis, Moorpark,  
Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks

### **Malibu Creek Watershed**

Thousand Oaks

Plus the Bays and Estuaries surrounding Ventura County's coastal cities including Port Hueneme, Oxnard and Ventura.

The watershed is everyone's responsibility.  
Inside you'll learn how we all, unknowingly, contribute  
to its contamination and how we can stop.

# Clean Working in Our Watershed

## Our Watershed & Stormwater Pollution

The watershed is the total land area from which rainwater drains into a stream, river or body of water. The watershed includes all of the natural terrain and neighborhoods surrounding these major water bodies, including your business. When it rains, stormwater moves quickly, transporting untreated pollutants directly into our watershed. A simple rain event can result in one big “illicit discharge”.

### So what is an illicit discharge?

An illicit discharge is any activity or event that results in a release, flow, spill, escape or the disposal of any material other than rain water (including liquids or solids) into the storm drain system.



When you think of ‘illicit discharges’, large oil, sewage and chemical spills come to mind. These are easy to spot, and easy to prevent, but they are not the biggest source of stormwater pollution. We all affect the health of our watershed in many ways that are not so obvious.

### Make your business part of the clean watershed equation with these simple illicit discharge prevention guidelines:

#### Everyday Tips

Appropriate storage of liquids and solids can help prevent pollutants from getting into the storm drain system. Inside or under cover is best.

**Cleaners** – Store cleaning products where they are protected from rain, and prevent spills from reaching the storm drain system.

**Chemicals** – Any material used or waste generated must be managed according to state regulations. Use secondary containment to prevent accidental discharges or leaks.

**Equipment** - Store materials, like batteries and machinery in trays or with drip pans to contain potential leaks and spills.

**Trash** – Keep dumpster lids closed and place covers on all waste containers. Never put liquid waste into a dumpster. Store outdoor waste receptacles under cover to reduce exposure to rain that could wash pollutants into the storm drain system.



**Recycling & Disposal** - For general information on Ventura County recycling and disposal programs for businesses call 805.658.4321 or visit [www.wasteless.org](http://www.wasteless.org).

#### Maintenance

Regular maintenance can prevent pollution and can ensure that your activities are not contributing to stormwater pollution.

**Surface Cleaning** – Regularly sweeping parking lots and areas around your business prevents pollution. Hosing oil, grease, soap and other pollutants into the storm drain system can result in a fine.

**Wash Water** – All cleaning solutions can harm wildlife, even if they are labeled nontoxic or biodegradable. Dispose of all nonhazardous wash water into indoor drains like sinks and toilets.

**Hazardous Spills** – Keep spill kits near stored chemicals or bulk cleaning agents. Use absorbent mats or socks to prevent

accidental spills from reaching the street or storm drain system.

**Parts/Equipment** – Use self-contained sinks and tanks when cleaning parts with degreasing solvents. Consider switching to a water-based cleaning solution. Use pans to catch leaks when working on engines or machinery.



#### Repairs & Construction

Take precautions to prevent illicit discharges from occurring during all building repair or remodeling, especially concrete work and painting. You can be held responsible for problems created by your contractor. Before work begins, be sure your contractor knows where to properly dispose of all wastes created.

Nothing but rain water may be discharged to a storm drain. It is illegal, as well as harmful, to allow wastes, wash water, cleaning agents, or materials of any kind into the storm drain system.

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