

The Gardena Community is the Solution to Runoff Pollution

Storm Drains are for Rain...



More than 800,000 people each month drop litter on the ground or out a car window. Litter makes neighborhoods dirty and smelly...and it clogs storm drains causing flooding and ocean pollution.

Remember, put trash where it belongs.

...not litter.



**PROJECT
Pollution
PREVENTION**

You know those rectangular openings found in curbs throughout the City? They're called "catch basins." **Gardena** has several hundreds of them. Chances are your home or business isn't located too far from one. Catch basins are an important component of our flood control system. Like the one shown in the picture, they come in various sizes and shapes. But their function is the same: to catch storm water and send it to the ocean through an underground network of pipes and tunnels. In **Gardena's** case, storm water runoff flows into the **Dominguez Channel** -- which also acts as a flood control channel -- before being discharged into the ocean.

Unfortunately, catch basins also transport polluted runoff to the river and ocean. Runoff, mixed with urban pollutants, creates runoff pollution. Pollutants include oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides, and trash.

Each day in Los Angeles County 100 million gallons of polluted urban runoff enter the ocean -- untreated -- leaving toxic chemicals in our surf and over 4,300 tons of trash on our beaches. Runoff pollution contaminates the ocean, closes beaches, harms aquatic life, and increases the risk of flooding by clogging gutters and catch basins.

Here's what you can do to prevent pollutants from being transported by runoff from your property into the river and ocean:

- ✓ Sweep-up trash and debris (never flush with water into the street or catch basin)
- ✓ Store trash and other pollutant materials in a manner that prevents contact with rain (in a container with a closed lid or under cover)
- ✓ Recycle used oil, concrete, broken asphalt, metals, etc.
- ✓ Avoid applying pesticides, fertilizers, and other chemicals during the wet season (October through May)
- ✓ Never dump any material into the storm drain system (street, gutters, catch basins)
- ✓ Report dumping and dumping and illicit discharges to Gardena Public Works: (310) 217-9528 or 888.CLEANLA (24/7)