



RIVERSIDE COUNTY
WATERSHED PROTECTION

Prevent Water Pollution:

Landscape & Gardening Maintenance Guide



Be the Solution. Prevent Runoff Pollution.

The water that flows into storm drains is not treated before flowing into Riverside County's creeks, rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean (unlike the sanitary sewer system). It should never contain washwater or pollutants like pesticides, fertilizer, dirt, leaves, and other hazardous substances generated by landscape and gardening maintenance. If these pollutants are not properly contained, they can runoff into the storm drain and harm our waterways.

Preventing runoff pollution while maintaining your property protects aquatic life, water quality, and keeps our waterways thriving. While taking care of your lawn and garden, make sure to only use pesticides and fertilizers when absolutely necessary and never before rain, clean up spills immediately, and sweep debris regularly.

Landscape & Gardening Pollutant Sources

Overwatering

Dirt, pesticides, fertilizers, pet waste, and organic waste can run off into the storm drain when overwatering occurs.

Lack of Maintenance Before Rain

Pet waste, leaves, grass clippings, and chemicals left on the ground (from property neglect or landscape maintenance) before or during rain can be washed into the storm drain.

Pesticide, Fertilizer, or Herbicide Use Before Rain

Using pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides 48 hours before or during rain can cause these chemicals to go untreated into our waterways.

Best Management Practices for Landscape & Gardening Maintenance

Protect our waterways while maintaining your lawn and garden by implementing these BMPs (best management practices):

Who We Are

Riverside County Watershed Protection is a partnership program between Riverside County, the Flood Control & Water Conservation District, Coachella Valley Water District, and 27 cities that manage watershed programs which protect, preserve, and enhance the quality of the water and the natural environment of our watersheds.

What We Do

The partnership uses a combination of public education, best management practices, evaluation, and water quality monitoring to eliminate stormwater pollution in our waterways and comply with all federal, state, and local regulations. Our aim is to empower residents with information about pollution prevention and implement tactics that keep our watersheds healthy.

Contact Us

To report pollution:



Call (800) 506-2555



Visit RCWatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution



For emergencies, dial 911

Maintain Your Property

- 💡 Prevent overwatering/runoff by only giving your lawn and garden the amount of water it needs. Do not water when it's raining and if you find a leak in your sprinkler system, fix it right away.
- 💡 Use a broom (not a hose) to clean regularly. Collect leaves, clippings, and pruning waste and compost them or dispose of them in your organic waste bin.
- 💡 Pick up dog waste and dispose of it in a trash can before it rains.
- 💡 Schedule large projects for dry weather and do not apply pesticides, herbicides, fungicides or fertilizers before rain events.
- 💡 Prevent erosion and runoff pollution during projects by covering piles of soil and stockpiled materials with tarps.

Sweep and Absorb Spills

- 💡 Clean solid material spills (i.e., mulch, soils, fertilizer) by sweeping or using a vacuum before disposing in the proper receptacle.
- 💡 Clean liquid spills (i.e., pesticides or herbicides) by using absorbents like rags.
- 💡 Dispose of hazardous waste (pesticides, garden chemicals, chemical-soaked rags) at collection centers. Visit rcwaste.org/hhw for more information.
- 💡 Report any spills that have entered the street, gutter, or storm drain by calling 800-506-2555 or going to rcwatershed.org/get-involved/report-pollution/.

Plan Ahead & Use Less Toxic Alternatives

- 💡 Only use pesticides, fertilizers, or herbicides when absolutely necessary and always follow the instructions on the label. Use less-toxic alternatives, like predatory insects and mulch, whenever possible.
- 💡 If chemical use is necessary, check the weather before and only apply them to your lawn or garden when it's not windy and rain is not predicted in the next 48 hours.



For more information about stormwater-safe gardening and landscape maintenance, visit:

RCWatershed.org/residents/at-home/gardening