

Environmental Dictionary



WATERSHED: An area of land where water drains through a series of creeks, rivers and bays into a common body of water such as the ocean. Everyone lives, works and plays in a watershed.

STORMWATER: Water from nature such as rain or snow melt.

URBAN RUN-OFF: Water from a hose or sprinkler that flows into the street.

POLLUTANT: Materials such as litter, pet waste, motor oil and yard clippings that harm the environment.

STORM DRAIN: A pipe or channel that conveys water from rain or urban run-off flows. This water picks up pollutants on the way to the storm drain. Once in the storm drain, the water and pollutants flow untreated to the ocean.

EVAPORATION: The process, caused by heat, where liquid is transformed into gas.

CONDENSATION: The process of gas changing to a liquid due to cooling temperatures. Cloud formation is caused by this process.

PRECIPITATION: Rain, snow, sleet or hail that falls from clouds due to decreased temperatures and a saturation of water vapor.

INFILTRATION: The process where water soaks into the ground and helps to replenish our ground water.

RUNOFF: Water from rain, sprinklers or hoses that travels through our streets, sidewalks and catch basins to storm drains where it flows directly into our creeks, rivers, bays and ocean.

TRANSPIRATION: The evaporation process of water from plants, especially through leaves but also stems, flowers and roots, as a result of undergoing photosynthesis.

