



## R-8 WATER CONSERVATION

Excessive irrigation and/or the overuse of water is often the most significant factor in transporting pollutants to the storm drain system. Pollutants from a wide variety of sources including automobile repair and maintenance, automobile washing, automobile parking, home and garden care activities and pet care may dissolve in the water and be transported to the storm drain. In addition, particles and materials coated with fertilizers and pesticides may be suspended in the flow and be transported to the storm drain.

The activities outlined in this fact sheet target the following pollutants:	
Sediment	x
Nutrients	x
Bacteria	x
Foaming Agents	x
Metals	x
Hydrocarbons	x
Hazardous Materials	x
Pesticides and Herbicides	x
Other	x

Hosing off outside areas to wash them down not only consumes large quantities of water, but also transports any pollutants, sediments, and waste to the storm drain system. The pollution prevention activities outlined in this fact sheets are used to prevent the discharge of pollutants to the storm drain system.

Think before using water. Remember - The ocean starts at your front door.

### Required Activities

- Irrigation systems must be properly adjusted to reflect seasonal water needs.
- Do not hose off outside surfaces to clean, sweep with a broom instead.

### Recommended Activities

- Fix any leaking faucets and eliminate unnecessary water sources.
- Use xeroscaping and drought tolerant landscaping to reduce the watering needs.
- Do not over watering lawns or gardens. Over watering wastes water and promotes diseases.
- Use a bucket to re-soak sponges/rags while washing automobiles and other items outdoors. Use hose only for rinsing.
- Wash automobiles at a commercial car wash employing water recycling.

For additional information contact:

County of Orange, **OC Watershed**

Main: (714) 955-0600/ 24hr Water Pollution Discharge Hotline 1-877-89-SPILL

or visit our website at: [www.ocwatersheds.com](http://www.ocwatersheds.com)