

## Pet Care

1. When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.



## Home Repair & Improvement

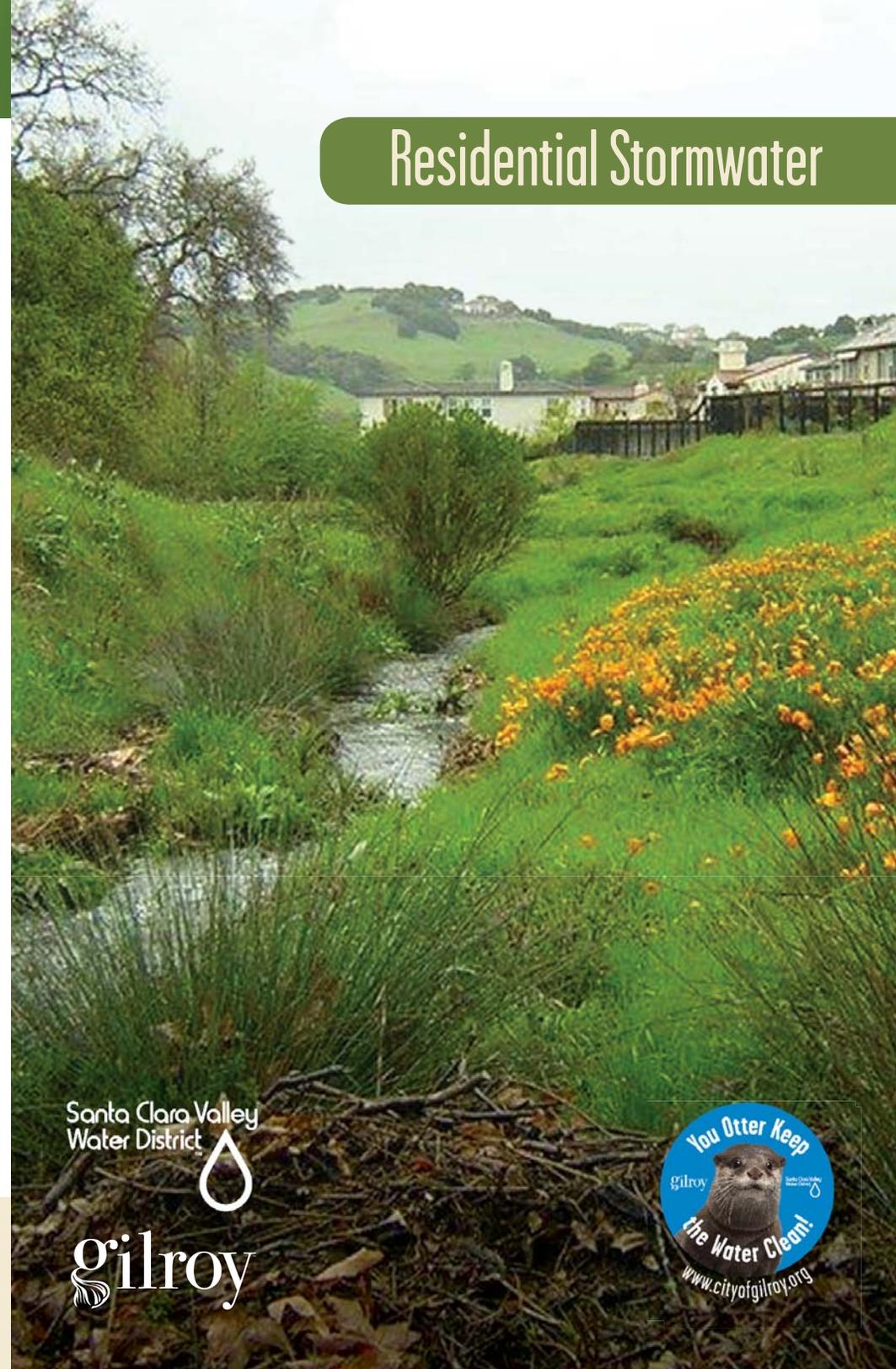
1. Before beginning a home improvement project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
2. Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
3. Use hazardous substances such as paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean paint brushes with water soluble paint in the sink, not outside. Clean up spills immediately (e.g. using kitty litter) and dispose of hazardous waste through the Household Hazardous Waste Program.

### \*Certified Waste Oil Centers in Gilroy

1. AutoZone | (408) 842-6689  
6900 Chestnut Street
2. Jiffy Lube | (408) 848-0813  
701 First Street
3. Precision Tune Auto Care  
(408) 209-4599  
8390 Swanston Lane



# Residential Stormwater



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## Make Your Home The Solution To Stormwater Pollution

When it rains, the water which touches the ground is known as stormwater. As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, landscaping, and sidewalks, it acquires debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. The City of Gilroy has separate plumbing systems for stormwater and sewage. Sewage is cleaned and treated at the sewer plant.

Stormwater can flow into a storm drain system or directly to a creek or a river, which may lead to a lake, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters the storm drain system is discharged untreated into waters which can eventually be used for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. **Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.** By practicing conscientious household routines, Gilroy residents can keep common pollutants such as pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. The following routines can help protect our nation's creeks, streams, rivers, lakes, wetlands, and coastal waters. Remember to share these practices with your neighbors.

## Vehicle & Garage

1. Use a commercial car wash. Commercial car wash services are permitted and connected to the public sanitary sewer system, which leads to the wastewater treatment plant. This wastewater is recycled, fully treated, and cleaned before being returned to Gilroy's waters.
2. Wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface. This practice reduces the amount of dirty, soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into local Gilroy creeks.



3. Check your vehicles and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs promptly. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter, and do not rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material. Kitty litter saturated with waste motor oil or coolant must be taken to the Household Hazardous Waste facility in San Martin—(408) 299-7300.
4. Recycle used oil. Use the curbside pick-up service or visit a participating waste motor oil recycler.\* Call Recology South Valley at (408) 842-3358 for information on waste motor oil and oil filter recycling. Never dump any such chemicals down the storm drain, nor dispose of them in your trash.

## Lawn & Garden

1. Use pesticides, herbicides, and fertilizers sparingly and in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise, chemicals will not function as intended and they will be washed into your local stream, causing water pollution. Consider non-toxic and biodegradable alternatives.
2. Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides. Contact your local nursery for information on local plants.
3. Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Call Recology South Valley about their organics services. Compost or recycle wastes when possible. Call (408) 918-4640 or go to [reducewaste.org](http://reducewaste.org) to find out about home composting.
4. Water in the early morning, and keep the water on your property and out of the storm drain.
5. Vegetate bare spots or use wood chips in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
6. During landscaping projects, cover piles (dirt, compost, top soil) to prevent these materials from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterways.

## Swimming Pool and Spa

1. Drain swimming pools and spas to the public sanitary sewer system, not to the storm drain. If you intend to significantly drain your swimming pool or spa, contact the City of Gilroy, Chemical Control Program at (408) 846-0436 for more information.
2. Store pool chemicals covered and in an area which will prevent and contain leaks or spills.

