A watershed is an area of land that drains to a common point. For example, in the Escondido Creek Watershed a water drop that falls near Lake Wohlford can trickle down the hills into Escondido Creek and eventually to the ocean via the San Elijo Lagoon in Encinitas.

Storm drains are pipe and channels systems that prevent flooding of our streets by channeling storm water directly to our creeks and lakes. Anything that flows into the storm drains ends up in our water ways untreated.

Remember, Only Rain in the Storm Drain.

For more information visit escondido.org/storm-water-program.aspx
Protecting Water Quality

Grounds Maintenance

- Regularly dry sweep paved areas. Collect and dispose of debris in waste containers.
- If water must be used for cleaning, use a mop and bucket or a wet-vac instead of a hose. Make sure to capture all wash water and dispose of it into the sanitary sewer system. Wash water is not allowed to enter street gutters or storm drains.
- Regularly inspect and clean the spaces adjacent to storm drain inlets. Sweep up trash, sediment, and other pollutants; then dispose of them properly. Do not sweep anything into a storm drain.

Waste Management

- Keep outside work areas clean and free of litter, debris, and sediment.
- Schedule regular waste pick-up.
- Never allow water to run into a storm drain when washing down dumpsters.
- Check dumpsters regularly for leaks.
- Ensure dumpster and trash can lids are secured to prevent wind transport of trash.

Education

- Train all employees to implement good housekeeping and pollution prevention practices.

Materials Storage

- Store materials indoors (when possible) or in covered areas.
- Provide proper spill containment (including secondary containment tanks or berms), when storing liquids.
- Take the necessary measures needed to prevent storage areas from being exposed to storm water and/or storm water runoff.
- Label all materials and keep updated inventories of materials stored on site.
- Implement spill cleanup procedures and supplies for employees.

Landscape and Irrigation

- Avoid over-watering and discharges of irrigation runoff by checking for sprinkler overspray and/or broken sprinkler heads.
- Irrigate before 10:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m.
- Collect all landscape debris. Recycle or dispose of it properly.
- Encourage landscaping employees and contractors to reduce/eliminate use of pesticides and fertilizers.

Vehicle and Equipment Maintenance

- Perform all vehicle and equipment maintenance indoors or under covered areas.
- Keep drip pans under leaking vehicles at all time.
- Ensure any floor drains are plumbed to the sanitary sewer. If they are plumbed to a storm drain, seal them off or cover them.
- Keep absorbent materials, pads, and rags readily accessible in work areas for use during spill clean ups.
- Label waste fluids and store in approved containers.
- Recycle oil, antifreeze, and batteries.

Vehicle and Equipment Washing

- Take vehicles/equipment to a commercial car wash, when possible.
- Wash vehicles/equipment over a pervious surface (dirt, gravel, grass, etc.) that allows wash water to evaporate and/or percolate into the soil. Discharges of wash water to the storm drain system are prohibited.
- Collect all wash water by vacuum. Recycle or dispose of wash water via the sanitary sewer system.