



Good Housekeeping Practices for YOUR HOME- Fact Sheet

Protect the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado

Be THE difference in San Benito. Our activities at homes can contribute to water pollution. Cleaning products, paint, medicine, and trash can make their way downstream to the Laguna Madre, the Arroyo Colorado and even our resacas and streams if we aren't careful in how we use and dispose of these products. We can always make small changes in our routine to help make a difference for the Environment.



Please see next page.

Good Housekeeping Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Your Home

Utilize these Good Housekeeping BMP's to help prevent stormwater runoff pollution in local resacas, the Laguna Madre and the Arroyo Colorado.

- ✓ **SWEEPING.** It's a good idea to sweep your curb and gutter regularly to stop dirt and debris from building up. Only use water to wash fine soil onto dirt areas, not down the street (Never wash debris down storm drains. Ordinance 2492 of the San Benito Code of Ordinances) Always dispose of your trash properly.
- ✓ **DON'T WASH NOR MAINTAIN YOUR VEHICLE IN THE STREET.** Just using and maintaining our cars can contribute to water pollution. Tires, fluids, filters, and soap can make their way downstream to our laguna and arroyo if we aren't careful in how we use and dispose of these products.
- ✓ **CLEANING PRODUCTS.** Never dispose of cleaning products in the sink drain or storm drain! For disposal, look for household hazardous waste drop-off locations in your area. Try non-toxic, non-hazardous cleaning products or alternative cleaning supplies that you can make from simple household items like baking soda, vinegar and lemon juice.
- ✓ **PAINTING.** Do not clean paint brushes in an area where paint can flow into the street or storm drain. For unused paint, try donating it to a home reuse center. Dry any empty paint cans before disposal in the trash.
- ✓ **PHARMACEUTICALS AND PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS.** In recent years, the Environmental Protection Agency has found pharmaceuticals and personal care products (PPCPs) such as medicines, shampoos, cosmetics, sunscreen and vitamins in treated wastewater, streams and lakes. At this time, further studies and solutions to address this issue are in the early phases. To dispose of unused PPCPs, follow the product label. Alternatively, deposit at a household hazardous waste collection or place in a dry plastic bag and into the garbage.
- ✓ **TRASH DISPOSAL AND RECYCLING.** Recycling conserves landfill space, natural resources and energy. Take the time to understand what products you can recycle and where. Your participation in recycling today will help support an even greater market for recycled products tomorrow.
- ✓ **ELIMINATE ILLICIT DRAIN CONNECTIONS.** Plumbing from indoor sink drains should not discharge directly into storm drainage systems, gutters, creeks, and streams; instead, indoor drains should be plumbed according to our local building code.
- ✓ **CONTROL EROSION AND LANDSCAPED AREAS.** Use native shrubs, plants and natural groundcovers to beautify your home, control areas where use has damaged plants, and consider alternative materials, such as river rock or mulch, in those areas of heavy use. Watch slopes for soil erosion. Lawn clippings should always be mulched back into the lawn and remember.
- ✓ **PET WASTE.** Pet waste contributes to water pollution. In order to prevent pet waste from entering waterways scoop the poop, bag it, and place it in the trash.