

## Good Housekeeping

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Practice good housekeeping and follow best management practices (BMPs) that are appropriate for your work area.

- **Storing Chemicals**—Keep chemicals, paints, fuels and oils properly contained with lids and away from drain inlets.
- **Waste Control**—Inspect dumpsters and other waste containers periodically. Repair or replace leaky dumpsters and containers.
- Keep dumpster lids closed when not in use to keep rainwater out and trash in.
- **Sweeping**—Regularly sweep and mop paved areas and parking lots to remove debris, especially before wash downs. Dispose debris properly.
- **Vehicle Washing**—Wash equipment/vehicles in a designated and/or covered area where the wash water is collected and/or discharged properly to the sanitary sewer.
- **Protective Barriers**—Install barriers to prevent soil and debris runoff while doing home improvements and at construction sites.
- **Training**—Train employees regularly on good housekeeping practices.
- **Be Proactive**—Participate in clean-up activities in the community.

## Important Contact Numbers

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To report a questionable discharge into a Navy storm drain system or nearby waters, please take the following action:

- Residents of Naval Base Guam (NBG) Apra Heights Housing/Community—contact the Area Housing Manager
- All other Base Personnel—contact:  
NBG Storm Water Program,  
NBG Environmental Office  
(671) 339-3711

For additional information, visit Naval Base Guam Storm Water web page at [https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/jrm/installations/navbase\\_guam.html](https://www.cnic.navy.mil/regions/jrm/installations/navbase_guam.html)

### References:

\**Guam Recycling Guide* can be found on the Naval Base Guam website under Recycling, or visit the Guam EPA websites <https://guamepa.govguam.net/> or <http://epa.guam.gov/recycling/>

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## Getting to Know Storm Water

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## What is Storm Water?

**Storm water** is excess rain water that doesn't soak into the ground but runs off into storm drains that lead to Guam's rivers, beaches and oceans. *This water is not fully treated before it is directly discharged into the waters that you swim, fish, and surf.*



## Why are we concerned about storm water?

As rain flows from rooftops, over paved areas and bare soils, and through sloped lawns, it will pick up a variety of pollutants on its way to Guam's waterways. **Polluted storm water** can destroy habitats and harm or kill marine animals and other wildlife.

Here are some examples of pollution and its effect:

- **Sediment** can cloud water, making it impossible for aquatic plants to grow. It can also destroy aquatic habitats.
- **Trash** like plastic bags, six-pack rings, cigarette butts, can suffocate or disable aquatic life such as fish, turtles and birds.



Photo: KUAM News

- **Nutrients** from fertilizers and pesticides can result in the rapid growth of algae in the water. When algae die, they decompose, reducing oxygen, which cause fish and other organisms to die.
- **Bacteria and parasites** from waste can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- **Household materials** such as herbicides, pesticides, fertilizers, paint, solvents, used motor oil and auto fluids can poison aquatic life.



## What can we do to reduce storm water pollution?

The only way to reduce storm water pollution is with everyone's help. By changing seemingly small individual activities, we can prevent large-scale pollution.

### Yard Maintenance

- Keep sidewalks, curbs and gutters clean by sweeping up debris and disposing it properly.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Limit your use of pesticides and fertilizers. Verify with the Environmental Office that their use is allowed in your area.
- Gather grass and tree cuttings and dispose as green waste or use as compost. Don't sweep or wash cuttings, or any debris from your yard, into the gutter or down the storm drain.
- Plant more native plants. They have long and deep root systems to stabilize soil and absorb excess nutrients from runoff.

### Auto Care

- If you prefer to wash your own car, wash it over your lawn or gravel to allow the ground to neutralize the soap and grime, rather than sending these directly to storm drains.
- For detergents, use biodegradable or non-toxic soap that is phosphate-free, or go to a commercial car wash where wastewater is either treated or recycled.
- If you perform your own automotive maintenance, do not pour motor oil on the ground or down the drain. Purchase an oil change box available at retail stores that sell motor oil and dispose of used oil properly. *The Guam Recycling Guide\* lists contact details for local companies that accept used motor oil.*



### Pet Waste

- Pick up and dispose of all pet waste which can contain nutrients and harmful bacteria and/or parasites. Properly dispose of waste in a trash bin.

### Household Waste

- Reduce use of hazardous household cleaning products and replace with environmentally-safe products.
- Never empty unused household products down the drain, toilet, or into the gutter.