

KNOW WHERE IT GOES REFERENCE GUIDE

Trash, recycling, compost, sanitary sewer (through sinks, floor drains or tubs), special programs, and household toxics facility can each take different types of waste, but **only rain belongs down the storm drain**.

COMPOST - The green yard debris bin used in Sonoma County is also OK for your kitchen compost.

ACCEPTABLE:

yard clippings
eggshells
vegetable scraps
bread
plain starches like rice or pasta
coffee grounds, tea bags

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

liquids
oil, grease
plastics even if labeled "compostable"
treated/infested wood
dirt, rocks
bones, meat, dairy
pet waste (chicken manure is OK)

RECYCLE - Keep caps less than 4 inches in diameter on containers. All materials should be clean and dry.

ACCEPTABLE:

paper, cardboard
aluminum cans and foil
plastic bottles and jars
glass bottles and jars
bagged plastic bags
milk and juice cartons
empty latex-paint cans

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

batteries
electronics with glass or larger than 2 feet in any dimension
broken glass
photos
PVC pipe
materials containing lead
drinking straws

TRASH - Consider all reuse and recycling options before discarding.

ACCEPTABLE:

cooled cooking grease
pet waste
soiled, non-recyclable plastics
food wrappers
styrofoam
boxed and taped broken glass
incandescent light bulbs

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

batteries
liquids, chemicals
fluorescent lights

SANITARY SEWER - Flows to our treatment facility for cleaning and reuse.

ACCEPTABLE:

wash water from water based paints
soap, bleach residue
toilet paper, human waste

NOT ACCEPTABLE:

fats, oil, grease
medicine
hair
any trash
solvents, hazardous chemicals
feminine products
permit may be needed for large volumes

TOXICS - For hazardous materials. Proof of residency is required. Call for appointments and hours. (707) 795-2025

Household Toxics Facility - 500 Mecham Road, Petaluma

Community Toxics Collections - scheduled weekly, Tuesdays 4-8pm, participation by appointment only, limited appointments

Toxic Rover Pickup Service - by appointment only, Wednesday limited, **fee required**

NOT ACCEPTED - explosives or ammunition, radioactive materials, biological wastes (syringes accepted), controlled substances

CONTACTS AND RESOURCES

More Information - www.recyclenow.org or call the Sonoma County Waste Management Agency, Eco-desk (707) 565-3375.

Report spills and dumping - In the City of Sonoma, during business hours (707) 933-2229; after hours (707) 338-9364

Storm Water and Creeks - Become a creek steward, visit <https://www.sonomacity.org/stormwater-pollution-prevention-program/>

SPECIAL PROGRAMS - Locations and program details are available in the annual Sonoma County Recycle Guide www.recyclenow.org.

Medication - Dispose of unused medications safely at participating locations, some restrictions apply, visit www.safemedicinedisposal.org.

Paint - PaintCare - Recycle unused household paint www.paintcare.org.

E-waste - Some accepted for curbside recycling, otherwise accepted for recycling through roundups or participating locations.

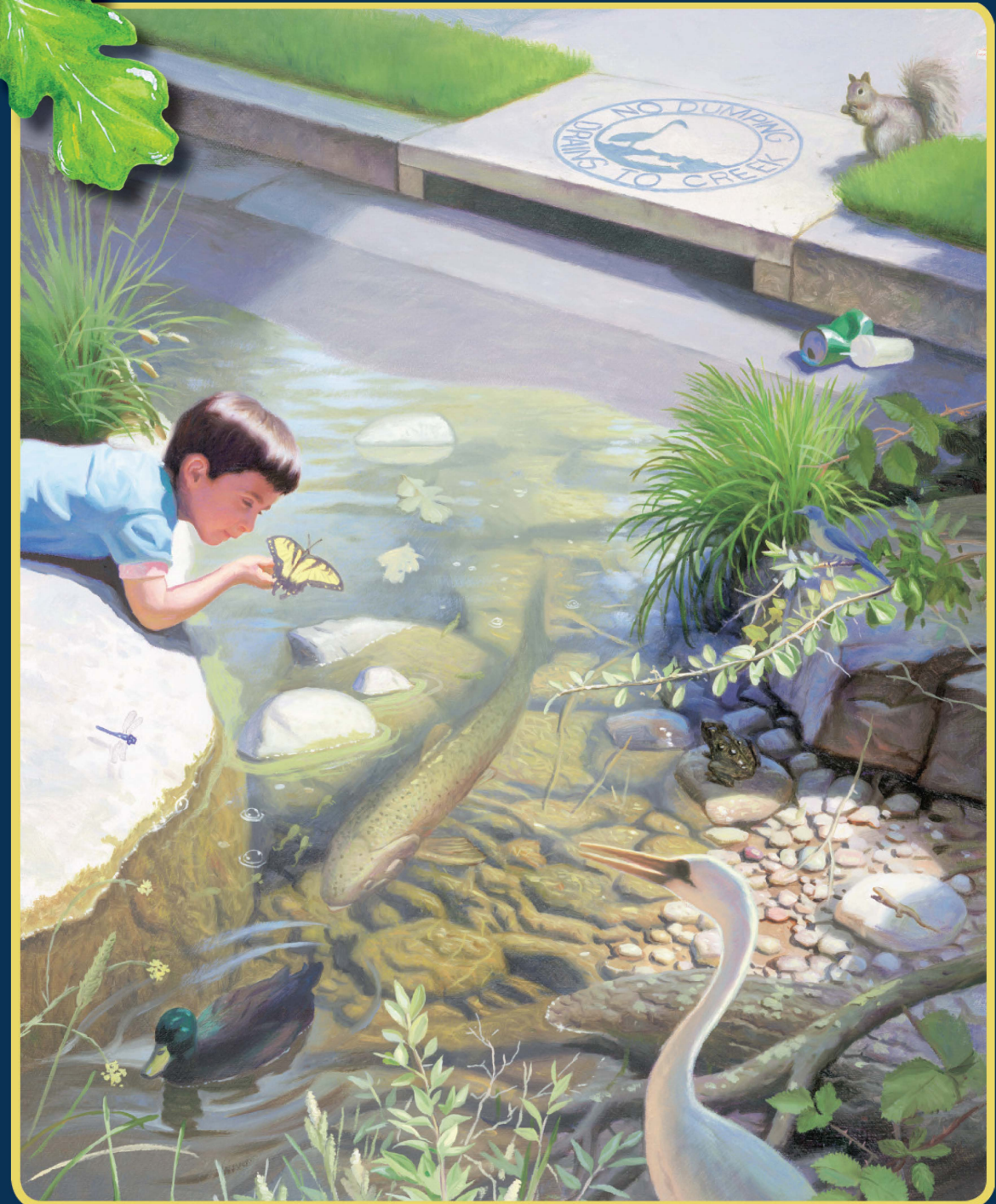
Motor Oil and Filters - Get a curbside recycling bag or drop off sealed at participating locations.

Batteries - Safely dispose of batteries through household toxics or select locations.

Fluorescent Lights - These contain mercury, safely dispose of them through household toxics or participating locations.

Storm Drains are for Storm Water Only

Do your part to keep our creeks healthy and clean



STORM DRAIN OR SEWER?

Two separate systems with different destinations

Storm Drain System

The storm drains you see on the ground and on nearly every street carry water to our creeks.

to our creeks

Creeks at Risk

Storm drains carry rainwater and anything it picks up directly to our creeks. Rain or irrigation water flows into the street, along the gutter and falls into an inlet. From there it flows through a pipe and then into an open channel or creek. Inlets can be found on the street, in parking lots, side yards, parks and both paved and unpaved areas. All these outside drains and street gutters are part of the storm drain system.

Flowing water easily picks up pollutants like pesticides, trash, oil, dirt, paint, and pet waste and carries them to our creeks.

Storm drains are commonly mistaken for the sewer. It is important to know that the storm drain system does not treat or clean water like the sewer system. Because storm water is not treated, the pollution it carries can harm wildlife, so remember *only rain down the storm drain!*

For Your Yard

- Don't use fertilizer or pesticides if rain is forecasted.
- Pick up pet waste immediately.
- Keep yard clippings and leaves out of storm drains.
- Use less-toxic methods to solve pest and garden problems when possible. Visit www.OurWaterOurWorld.org for tips.
- Sweep paved/hard surfaces instead of hosing them down.

For Your Home

- Use chemicals sparingly. Even "biodegradable" household cleaning products can harm fish and wildlife.
- Construction debris, paint and yard waste must never be disposed of in storm drains or street gutters.
- Clean up spills and leaks quickly with a rag, mop or kitty litter. Then wash or dispose of it properly.
- Store all chemicals indoors and in labeled, sealed containers.

Sanitary Sewer System

The sanitary sewer system carries water from inside drains to our water treatment facility where it is cleaned and recycled.

to Laguna Treatment Facility

A Critical Difference

The bath, sink and toilet drains in your home connect to the sanitary sewer system. The water, now called wastewater, is collected from homes and businesses and flows through its own system of pipes to the Laguna Treatment Facility. Wastewater goes through 3 stages of treatment to be cleaned and recycled for reuse. The recycled water is used for irrigation and sent to the geysers steam-fields to help generate our power.

Our water treatment facility safely removes soap, bleach, latex paint, and many other water soluble products from sewage. By sending these products to the proper facility you can protect fish and wildlife.



WHAT YOU DO MATTERS

For Your Car

- Cars are best washed at a car wash facility.
- If you must wash your car at home, go light on the soap and direct wash and rinse water to a dirt, lawn or gravel area – *never a storm drain.*

For Our Creeks!

- Use proper disposal methods. The back of this document has an easy guide for handling common creek pollutants. *So you know where it goes.*

