

Spotlight On Safety

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THE CAMPUS STORMWATER SYSTEM

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There are three systems that carry water throughout campus: potable water, sanitary sewer, and the stormwater system. The potable water system delivers drinking water to water fountains and hydration stations, and also delivers potable water to laboratories, kitchens, restrooms, boilers, and landscape irrigation. The sanitary sewer carries sewage away through drains in these and other areas to the wastewater treatment plant.

The stormwater system is designed to carry only rainfall runoff – not sewage, soil, sediment, trash or debris. Campus stormwater runoff is carried via underground pipes, aboveground channels, culverts, and swales through and off-campus. Unlike wastewater that flows to the wastewater treatment plant, stormwater runoff is ultimately discharged untreated into the Santa Ana River and the ocean.

Disposal of chemicals or hazardous substances into the stormwater system is illegal because it endangers our health and damages our environment. Pollutants that get into storm drains can poison fish, birds, and other wildlife, and can contaminate drinking water. In addition, sediment, litter, and organic matter such as leaves, branches, and grass clippings can clog storm drains and cause flooding.

Stormwater System Facts

Materials that must not enter storm drains include:

- Chemicals (fuels, oils, transmission fluid, pesticides, research wastes, etc.)
- Trash (cigarette butts, fast food and drink packaging, snack and candy wrappers, plastic bottles, cans, dumpster overflow)
- Sediment from erosion, construction activities, or landscaping
- Plant debris such as leaves, branches, and grass clippings
- Pet waste
- Any non-stormwater runoff

Protecting Stormwater Runoff

- Learn about Best Management Practices (BMPs) for preventing contamination of stormwater runoff - BMPs for specific activities can be accessed at [UCR Environmental Programs UCR Stormwater - Phase II Small MS4 Permit](#)
- Learn more about what you can do to Protect R' River at [UCRCleanWater!](#)
- Keep all drains free of leaves, litter, and debris
- Keep your vehicle in good repair to prevent leaking
- Clean up spills with absorbent; never wash spills into storm drains
- Don't hose off sidewalks, driveways, or parking areas; use a broom
- Call EH&S to ask about other best management practices

Please report any illegal or questionable discharges into the storm drain system to EH&S at (951) 827-5528 or to ucrcleanwater@ucr.edu