



# Protect Maui's Water

## Pollution Prevention Tips at Home

A common misconception is that rainwater that enters storm drains is treated and filtered like sewage, but this rarely happens. To help prevent flooding, storm drains are designed to remove stormwater from our roads quickly, leading directly to streams and the ocean. This means that anything in the rainwater that washes off the roads is transported to streams and the ocean.

Here are some things we can do to keep our stormwater clean and free of common household pollutants. Remember: Nothing but rain down the drain!

### WAYS TO HELP IN THE HOUSE



#### Handle and dispose of household chemicals safely.

Always store and dispose of household chemical products – like cleaning solutions, paints, and solvents – properly and in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Minimize their exposure to rain and direct sunlight, and don't pour them on the ground or into roadway gutters or storm drains.

#### Dispose of cooking oil and grease properly.

Once cooled, used cooking oil and grease should be mixed into absorbent material and thrown in the trash – never poured down your kitchen drain. Oil in sewer pipes can lead to clogs which in turn can cause sewage to leak into our water supply, streams or the ocean.



### DID YOU KNOW?

Stormwater runoff from your home and yard can carry pollutants miles away to the ocean and cause significant damage to marine ecosystems.



## PROTECT OUR WATER

- MĀLAMA I KA WAI -

HDOT Highways Division - Maui District

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[www.stormwatermaui.com](http://www.stormwatermaui.com)

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## Pollution Prevention Tips at Home



See a spill or concern  
on a State Highway?  
**Contact us!**  
**808.873.3535**

### WAYS TO HELP IN THE YARD

#### Fix leaks and clean up auto fluids properly.

Never allow automotive fluids – such as oil, gas, antifreeze, brake or transmission fluids – to run down the street or be dumped into storm drains. If your vehicle is leaking fluids, get it fixed as soon as possible. Wipe up spills in your driveway instead of hosing it down to prevent chemicals from entering the storm drain.



#### Wash your car in the right places.

When washing your car, soap and chemicals from the vehicle can run off into the street and enter storm drains. Consider using a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater, or wash your car in a grassy area instead of your driveway, which allows the water to be filtered in the ground before it enters the water table.

#### Check your septic tank.

If you have a septic system, check that it is professionally maintained and working properly on a regular basis. Survey the ground around the septic tank for any leaks or pooling of sewage, and make sure all lids are tightly affixed.



#### Properly dispose of green waste.

After mowing your lawn, pick up the grass clippings and throw them in the trash so the rain does not carry them into the storm drain. Fertilizers and grass clippings can cause algae blooms, which rob the water of oxygen, harming marine life and ecosystems.

#### Always pick up after your pet.

Just one gram of dog waste contains over 23 million fecal coliform bacteria, which can cause disease in humans and other animals. Be sure to bag your pet's waste and dispose of it in the trash.



#### Use lawn and gardening chemicals sparingly.

Pesticides and fertilizers should be used properly and only as needed. Planting native plants can also reduce the need for additional chemicals.



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