



rcwatershed.org

RIVERSIDE COUNTY WATERSHED PROTECTION

27 Cities + One County + Two Districts = A Team Effort.

Water pollution degrades surface waters which can cause them to be unsafe for drinking, fishing, swimming, and other activities. The Riverside County Watershed Protection program was established to reduce the pollution carried by stormwater into local creeks and waterways that lead to the ocean. The program is managed by the Riverside County Flood Control & Water Conservation District in partnership with 27 Cities, the County of Riverside and the Coachella Valley Water District.

What is a watershed and how do I affect it?

A watershed is an area of land that catches and drains water into a creek, stream or tributary and eventually ends up in a large body of water such as our lakes, rivers or the ocean. As stormwater flows over land and across the watershed into a waterway, it carries urban runoff such as used motor oil and grease, pesticides, trash and other harmful debris. This is where the public comes in. The more we can prevent polluting the watershed, the healthier our waterways will be and the habitat it supports.

What is stormwater?

Stormwater runoff is any water, either through rain, sprinklers, or irrigation of yards/gardens, that falls and is transported over land and pavement into local waterbodies through the storm drain system. All water that flows into a storm drain is deposited into creeks, rivers or the ocean without treatment.



Is there a difference between the storm drain and sewer system?

Yes, an important difference. Stormwater and all the pollutants that flow from our homes, parking lots and streets to the gutter into the storm drains flow directly into our creeks and other water bodies untreated. Water and pollutants that flow into the sanitary sewer, such as water from our sinks, bathtubs and toilets, are sent to a wastewater treatment facility before the water is discharged to the Bay or Ocean.

Doo Good

Pick up dog doo. Protect streams

Dog doo can pollute our waterways. Rain flows across yards and trails, collecting in storm drains that lead directly to streams without being treated!

Bacteria Problems

A single gram of dog doo can contain 23 million fecal coliform bacteria and can spread diseases like Giardia and Salmonella.

Bacteria from dog doo accounts for up to **20%** of the bacteria in urban waterways.

Nutrient Problems

Nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus that are found in dog doo act like a fertilizer in streams. They cause algae to grow which reduces the available oxygen for fish. The more poop, the bigger the potential problem. Locally there are over **90,000** dogs that make **11,700 tons** of poop a year.

Be a "Doo Gooder"

You can make a difference by being a responsible pet owner. Being a "Doo Gooder" means being a model for others and picking up your dog doo. Here are **5 tips** every dog owner should know:

- Be prepared: carry poop bags with you.
- Take extra bags so you don't run out and you can help someone else in need.
- Make sure the bag ends up in a trash can.
- When you hike, never leave a bag on the trail – take it with you.
- Scoop your poop at home or hire someone to keep your yard healthy and to protect streams.



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OUR MISSION

"To protect, preserve and enhance the quality of Riverside County Watersheds by fostering a community-wide commitment to clean water."

@RivCoWatershed

