



What is a Watershed?

A Watershed is an area of land that drains to a common water body. All rain water and urban runoff drains to creeks, lakes, lagoons, and ultimately to the Pacific Ocean. Vista is located in the San Luis Rey and Carlsbad Watersheds. These watersheds include the waterways we know as the San Luis Rey River, Guajome Lake, Loma Alta Creek, Buena Vista Creek and Lagoon, Agua Hedionda Creek and Lagoon, San Marcos Creek and Batiquitos Lagoon, and Escondido Creek and San Elijo Lagoon. The majority of Vista is within the Carlsbad Watershed. In general, the northern half of the City drains to Buena Vista Creek and the southern half drains to Agua Hedionda Creek.

We all want clean water so we can enjoy our waterways throughout the year and especially in the summer months. We can achieve this through the vigilance and awareness of our every day activities. Doing our part will make a difference, one step at a time. Urban runoff pollution comes from things we do every day. Everything that enters our storm drains flows to our rivers, creeks, lagoons, and the ocean without any type of treatment.

Studies show that urban runoff is a significant source of water pollution. Urban runoff may contain pollutants such as leaking oil and other fluids from automobiles, fertilizers and pesticides from lawns and gardens, failing septic tanks, residential car washing, and pet waste. Below are some tips you can follow to do your part in reducing water pollution.

Summertime Tips: **Avoid over-watering:** Adjust sprinklers so only your lawn and plants get watered - not the driveways, sidewalks and streets. Use efficient irrigation methods such as drip systems, soaker hoses and micro-sprinklers. Remember to check for leaks regularly. Runoff from your residence carries pollutants as it travels to the storm drains!



Washing vehicles: The best method is to use your neighborhood carwash which recycles the water; however, when washing your vehicles at home use biodegradable soap sparingly. Wash your vehicle on the lawn and use a bucket and a hose with a shut-off nozzle. Whenever possible, avoid letting the water run into the street; instead, water plants, flowers, trees and grassy areas.



Patios, Sidewalks & Driveways: Sweep, do not hose down these areas. The most environmentally efficient way to clean your sidewalks, patios and driveways is to sweep up debris and rake up leaves and other plant matter. Dispose of trash and yard waste in the appropriate containers.

Pet Waste: Be sure to pick-up after your pets. Pet waste can easily be disposed of by placing it in a plastic bag and putting it in your trash container.

Yard Waste: Most yard waste is recyclable! You can use your yard waste container or start a compost pile.

Free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Facility



Location: 1145 E. Taylor Street
(across the street from the Public Works Yard)

Hours: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

SATURDAYS ONLY

No appointment is necessary.

Proof of residency is required.

Here are some common household wastes that require special attention:

Home Improvement Repairs: Materials such as paints, brushes, paint thinners, paint strippers, adhesives, stains, varnishes, sealants and wood preservatives as well as concretes and tiling products, etc. pollute the waterways when they are allowed to enter the storm drain. Please be responsible when disposing of these materials.

Hazardous Materials: Household toxic products such as drain openers, oven cleaners, wood and metal polish, cleaners for grout, fluorescent light bulbs, toilet bowls and disinfectants should be disposed of properly.

Automotive Products: Oil and fuel additives, grease/rust solvents, carburetor/fuel injector cleaners, air conditioning refrigerants, starter fluids, etc. are all considered to be hazardous waste.

Lawn and Garden Products: Pesticides, Herbicides, and Fungicides are poisons.

Medications: Unwanted, unused, or expired prescription drugs can damage our environment through improper disposal. Secure collection containers are located at several Sheriff's facilities to drop off unused medications at any time.

Home Sharps Disposal: Home-generated *sharps* are defined as disposable hypodermic needles, needles with attached tubing, syringes, blades, lancets, acupuncture needles, and other medical devices that are used to penetrate the skin for self-injection, to deliver medication, or to conduct a blood test.

For more information regarding disposal of these types of wastes, please contact the HHW facility.

Household Hazardous Waste Disposal

Vista Residents 1-800-714-1195 (Mon-Fri)

Non-Vista Residents 1-877-713-2784 (Mon-Fri)

www.cityofvista.com/departments/pubworks

Water Quality Protection Program

Stormwater Hotline (760) 726-1340 x 1686

E-mail waterquality@cityofvista.com

www.cityofvista.com/departments/engineering/WaterQuality.cfm

We Wish You All A Safe Happy Summer !