



county of san diego

fertilizer



Let's All Do Our Part!

Most residents are concerned about keeping our waterways clean. In fact, surveys conducted across San Diego County show that **more than 50% of residents** believe that pollution of our creeks, lakes, and beaches, directly affects them and their families.

We're Here To Help.

Fertilizers contain nutrients that are beneficial to plants. However, these nutrients are easily washed away by rain or irrigation. If fertilizers are not applied correctly, they can enter the storm drain and reach our waterways where they can kill fish and plant life. Excess fertilizers in our waterways feed algae which grows rapidly on the surface, blocking out sunlight for the plants and fish below. The **County of San Diego Watershed Protection Program** supports residents in their efforts to prevent pollution by offering these important **tips for preventing fertilizers from entering the storm drain**.



Water that is released to the streets, gutters, and storm drains in San Diego County is **NOT TREATED** before it reaches our local creeks, rivers, and the ocean. All sources of pollution are prohibited from leaving your property and entering streets or storm drains. Only rainwater is allowed in the streets and storm drains.

What Can You Do To Keep Our Waterways Clean?

- **Apply fertilizer according to label's application rate** and only as much as needed for the plant.
- **Sweep up any spills.**
- **Spread fertilizer evenly over the ground** so that it does not wash away and so that it can be readily taken up by plants.
- **Use perimeter BMPs** (straw wattles, silt fences, etc.) to contain fertilizer.
- **Use mulch** to reduce the need for fertilizer.

***Thank you for doing
your part to protect
our waterways.***

Call Us For More Information.

1-888-846-0800

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www.sandiegocounty.gov/stormwater