



PROTECT OUR HARBOR

You may think that most water pollution is caused by major oil spills by industry giants. In fact, the majority of water pollution is caused by the unaware actions of everyday people like you and me.

Here are some simple ways each of us can help insure a healthy environment.

Scary fact.... Oil spills account for only about five percent of the oil entering the oceans. U.S. water sewage treatment plants discharge twice as much oil each year as tanker spills.

ACTION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Instead of maintaining a manicured lawn, convert part of your yard into a garden or plant more low plants and groundcover. Unlike turf, these groundcovers allow water to seep into the ground and help replenish groundwater and water supplies. Rainwater runs off a lawn as fast as pavement. Water your yard or garden only when necessary.
- ✓ Plant trees. They slow stormwater runoff by absorbing rain water, and their shade keeps the ground cool, slowing the evaporation of groundwater,
- ✓ Help care for street trees by watering them during dry periods. Make sure that bikes or other objects don't lean against them, or that ropes or plastic tapes don't damage trunks.
- ✓ Even if you don't have a garden, potted plants and flowers can help to absorb rainwater.
- ✓ Storm drains are only for stormwater. Anything you dump into the street or a storm drain ends up in streams or the bay.
- ✓ Direct gutter downspouts away from pavement so they empty into your yard or, better still, into rain barrel so you can use the water in your garden.
- ✓ If you have a pet, use a pooper scooper and dispose of waste properly.
- ✓ Sweep, don't hose, your sidewalk.
- ✓ Don't litter--use garbage cans or trash bags.

Your car can pollute too!

- ✓ If you change your own oil, take used oil to your gas or service station.
- ✓ Wash your car at a car wash, not on the driveway. The car wash recycles the water.
- ✓ Check your driveway or garage for leaks from your car.