

FOUL WEATHER MEANS INCREASE IN STORMWATER POLLUTION

The Alameda County Clean Water Program reminds residents to help reduce pollution during rainy season

Rainy season brings more than gray skies to Alameda County. It also brings an increase in water pollution.

The first heavy rains of the season, in particular, cause a first flush effect where built up pollutants wash off streets and roads into local waters. Some of the major pollutants that end up in the San Francisco Bay are motor oil, litter and pesticides.

The good news is that Alameda County residents can help reduce water pollution during the rainy season by following a few simple tips:

- Check vehicles for leaks! Even a small leak can have a big impact.
- If you see litter, pick it up! A bottle or food wrapper on the ground is unsightly; when rains wash litter down storm drains, these items pollute local waters.
- Don't spray pesticides around the perimeter of your home, especially when rain is forecast.

For more tips on preventing water pollution, visit BayWise.org.