

# You Are Essential To Clean Water Potential

Urban sources are the largest contributors of pollution to local creeks and San Francisco Bay. However, you can help prevent stormwater pollution by following these tips that create a big impact and protect waterways:



**Sweep up fallen leaves** and place them in your green compost cart instead of blowing them into the street.

**Give yourself a break** — use a commercial car wash to avoid creating polluted runoff.



**Avoid spraying pesticides** in or around your house. Check out the less-toxic pest management techniques found on [ourwaterourworld.org](https://ourwaterourworld.org).

**Dispose of old paints, pesticides, cleaners, or other household hazardous waste** at the City's Household Hazardous Waste Station. More info on [cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste](https://cityofpaloalto.org/hazwaste).



**Pick up litter** when you see it. Keep garbage and recycling carts tightly covered to prevent litter from being blown away or scattered by foraging animals.

**Pick up pet waste**, and dispose of it properly in the garbage. Pet waste can carry harmful bacteria and pathogens into creeks.



**Avoid single-use disposables** to reduce waste and litter. Some ideas include bringing your own reusable produce bag to the grocery store or switching to reusable snack packs. More info on [cityofpaloalto.org/zwliving](https://cityofpaloalto.org/zwliving).

**Make sure hired mobile businesses** (e.g., car detailers, carpet cleaners, and dog groomers) **dispose of liquid waste** down a utility sink or toilet, and not into the street or storm drains.



**Want to learn more pollution prevention tips and information?**  
**Visit [cityofpaloalto.org/watershed](https://cityofpaloalto.org/watershed) or call 650.329.2122.**

