

Preventing Storm Water Pollution

Vandenberg AFB is covered under a California Municipal Storm Water General Permit per Clean Water Act National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) regulations. This permit also covers many other cities in Santa Barbara County and unincorporated developed areas. This means Vandenberg AFB must take effective measures to prevent storm water pollution.

Unlike the water that goes down your indoor household drains to the sewer, rain water that flows into storm drains isn't treated or filtered for pollutants. When it rains, the storm water runs into storm drains and then discharges to the local watershed where it may flow to local streams and rivers, eventually making its way to the ocean. Everything this runoff encounters in its path is a potential contaminant that can cause water pollution.

Below are some simple measures you can take to protect storm water on Vandenberg and wherever you live:

1. Properly dispose of hazardous or polluting substances such as used motor oil, cleaning solutions, and paint—never pour them down any part of the storm sewer. Facilities are required to take all hazardous waste to the Consolidated Collection Accumulation Point, Building 3300, located on New Mexico Ave. Residents should take them to the Self Help Facility, located at 603 Juniper St.
2. Store and handle hazardous materials properly to prevent spills.
3. Prevent water containing soaps, dirt or chemicals from entering storm drains.
4. Avoid dirt or litter in streets, gutters and storm drains.
5. Maintain vehicles at an automotive repair shop to prevent leaks.
6. Prevent over-watering of lawns and don't fertilize before a predicted storm. Over-watering can carry fertilizers and other pollutants to a storm drain. Excessive over-watering is also now prohibited by the permit.
7. Always pick up after your pet.
8. To confidentially report any dumping or unusual discharges to the stormwater drainage system, contact CEIEC Water Resources at (805) 606-7541 Report.

Thank you for keeping storm water clean at Vandenberg AFB!

