

WINTER E-NEWSLETTER

Waters Will Flow

Stormwater and Pesticides

California's wet weather season typically falls between October and April, and stormwater runoff from these seasonal storms can have a big impact on our local water quality.

Stormwater is water from rain or snowmelt that flows over the landscape. This water can then travel, untreated, into the storm drain system and ultimately to the local waterbodies. As the stormwater comes into contact with the urban landscape it can become contaminated with substances such as motor oil, pet waste, trash, and pesticides, which can harm our waterways.



Pesticides and Water Quality

Pesticides are toxic chemicals that are intended to kill pests, such as unwanted insects and plants. However, if these chemicals end up in our waterways, they can harm the aquatic plants and animals.

Follow these tips to help keep pesticides out of our streams and rivers:

- Consider less-toxic alternatives first. Visit [Our Water, Our World](#) to learn more.
- Always read product labels and follow the instructions when applying chemicals.
- Choose ready-to-use products instead of concentrates to reduce the risk of spills and chemical exposure.
 - If you do spill a pesticide, clean it up immediately by using something absorbent, like cat litter, sawdust, or paper towels, to soak up the chemical. Dispose of the absorbent material at a household hazardous waste facility. Never wash a spilled pesticide into the street or a storm drain!
 - Your local household hazardous waste facility is the San Joaquin County Household Hazardous Waste Consolidation Facility (7850 R. A. Bridgeford Street, Stockton, CA 95206). This facility is open to the public, free of charge on Thursdays, Fridays, Saturdays, and Sundays from 9 AM – 3 PM. For more information, call the County Solid Waste Office at (209) 468-3066 or visit their website: <https://www.sjgov.org/department/pwk/solid-waste/san-joaquin-county-solid-waste-facilities/san-joaquin-county-household-hazardous-waste-facility>.
- Be aware of your water usage. Prevent contaminated water from entering local waterbodies by avoiding watering plants soon after pesticide application and by following [these irrigation tips](#).



LEARN MORE!

Visit [Our Water, Our World](#) for more [information about safely using and disposing of pesticides](#).

Pyrethroid Pesticides in Our Water

Pyrethroids are man-made chemicals found in many pesticide products because they're good at managing pests. However, these chemicals can become a problem in our waterbodies because they don't break down in the environment easily and can continue to harm aquatic plants and animals long after the pesticide is applied. Pyrethroid active ingredient names almost always end in *-thrin*. Be sure to read the labels of pesticide products and avoid products with the following active ingredients, if possible:



- *Permethrin*
- *Bifenthrin*
- *Cyfluthrin*
- *Beta-cyfluthrin*
- *Cypermethrin*
- *Deltamethrin*
- *Lambda-cyhalothrin*
- *Tralomethrin*
- *Esfenvalerate (an exception to the -thrin rule!)*

If you're interested in purchasing less-toxic pesticide products, next time you're at your local garden supply store, be sure to look for "point-of-purchase" displays, such as shelf edging or tags, display stands with fact sheets, banners, and other educational materials. Our Water, Our World is one program that provides these materials in northern California. [Click here to find a participating store](#) near you.

For more information about how Mountain House Community Services District is working toward improving local water quality, visit [here](#).