

Stormwater tip – August 2016

The month of August is a big vacation month. Many in our community plan to spend vacation time at the beach. Unfortunately, there are times when a trip to the beach is marred by a beach closure and warnings. The most common reason that beaches are closed in the summer is the presence of higher-than-normal levels of bacteria, which can be caused by many factors. One of those factors is stormwater pollution.

When stormwater hits the pavement, it picks up and mixes with what's there. That might include:

- oil, grease, and automotive fluids;
- fertilizer and pesticides from gardens and homes;
- bacteria from pet waste and improperly maintained septic systems;
- soap from car washing;
- debris and litter.

Many people assume that stormwater flows down storm drains and then to a treatment facility. That is not the case. Stormwater flows into storm drains and then flows directly into local waters, including the ocean. Do your part to prevent stormwater pollution. Do not put anything down a storm drain; clean up after your pet; take your car to a car wash instead of washing at home; and minimize use of fertilizers and pesticides.