



2022 Stormwater Tip of the Month

MONTH	TIP OF THE MONTH
January	Did you know “you” are the answer to storm water pollution? Visit your City’s Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to learn more about stormwater pollution prevention. You can also visit the Less is More website to learn how you can participate in a community cleanup day.
February	Did you know that the local household hazardous waste collection events are FREE for residents? Bring your unwanted chemicals to your City’s next event. Visit your City’s Solid Waste webpage (Buellton or Solvang), or the Less Is More website for information about household hazardous waste collection events in the Santa Ynez Valley. <u>Solvang Residents</u> : You can schedule a FREE home pickup of your household hazardous waste via Waste Management’s new At Your Door Special Collection Service. Visit Waste Management website for details.
March	Prepare for spring cleaning early by exploring the Less Is More website to learn how to reduce, reuse and recycle at home or at your business. This webpage is a great place to find a home for the items you want to donate!
April	Using less-toxic products at home to help reduce pesticide pollution in your community. Look for Eco-Friendly tags on the product shelves of nurseries and hardware stores to help you identify less-toxic alternatives. Visit the Our Water Our World (OWOW) website or a local participating business in Solvang (Valley Hardware) or in Buellton (Farm Supply and Windmill Nursery) where you can find a brochure display with information about less-toxic product alternatives to use on specific garden pests.
May	Did you know before discharging swimming pool and spa water it must be dechlorinated to undetectable levels (< 0.1 mg/L)? This can be done with chemicals or by not adding chlorine to an uncovered pool or spa for 10 days. Visit your City’s Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to learn how to properly manage backwash and wastewater from your swimming pool and spa.
June	If washing your car at home, make sure the wash water drains to a landscaped area and not a gutter or storm drain to reduce stormwater pollution. Avoid using soaps and chemicals. Visit your City’s Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to learn more about implementation of Best Management Practices at home or when using mobile cleaners to clean your vehicle.
July	Did you know <u>Solvang Residents</u> can schedule two (2) FREE bulky item pick-ups and <u>Buellton Residents</u> can schedule up to four (4) FREE bulky item pickups per calendar year at no additional charge? Visit your waste disposal provider’s website (Waste Management or MarBorg) for more information or contact them directly at least 24 hours in advance of your service day.
August	We’ve all seen a puddle or stormwater runoff with an oil sheen, but have you thought about where it ends up? Oil and other vehicle fluids are toxic to humans, animals, and aquatic life – we need your help to prevent this. Visit your City’s Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) and find the Automotive Guide to BMPs. Visit the Less is More website to find locations to take used oil.
September	Leaves and sediment can accumulate in your property’s rain gutters, downspouts, ditches, curbs, etc. over the summer. When the fall rains begin, this can cause flooding of your property and could impact downstream properties. You may avoid this by inspecting and cleaning these features before the rainy season – it will also help reduce stormwater pollution by preventing debris from washing away in stormwater runoff. It’s important to repair any damage to your drainage system but DO NOT alter or re-grade slopes without consulting an expert. Visit your City’s Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to learn more about stormwater pollution prevention.



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October	<p>Pet waste can be a significant source of fecal coliform bacteria in urban watersheds. We need the help of pet owners to reduce bacteria contamination in our community. Let's Close the Poop Loop by continuing to pick up after our dogs and toss the waste in the trash. Visit your City's Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) and the Close the Poop Loop website to find out the Truth About Dog Poop.</p>
November	<p>Don't pour that grease down the drain! During the coming holidays, many households and restaurants will be cooking with fat and oils. When dumped down the drain, fat and oils can clog pipes, resulting in sewer overflows – possibly causing sewage to flow to the storm drain system and our creeks. While restaurants collect oil/grease in recycling containers, homeowners should pour used oil/grease into sealable containers, freeze it, let it sit until harden, mix it with kitty litter/coffee grounds before placing into the trash or take it to the local hazardous waste collection center or a scheduled collection event. Visit the Less Is More website to learn more where you can recycle and/or dispose of cooking oil.</p>
December	<p>Recycle your Christmas tree by either placing it curbside or cutting it up and putting it into your green waste bin along with your holiday wreath. Don't forget to remove all decorations including tinsel, lights, ornaments, tree stands and/or metal frames before placing your tree on the curb or in the green waste bin. Visit your waste disposal provider's website (Waste Management or Marborg) for more information about recycling your Christmas tree.</p>