



2026 Stormwater Tip of the Month

MONTH	TIP OF THE MONTH
January	Start the year by protecting your local waterways! Unlike wastewater, stormwater that flows through the City's storm drain system is not treated before it reaches rivers, creeks, and ocean. If you notice a spill or pollutants in stormwater runoff, promptly contact your City's Public Works Department in (Buellton or Solvang) to report it.
February	Cleaning out your medicine cabinet? Properly disposing of expired or unwanted medicines is vital to protect both public health and the environment. Visit the Med-Project website to find safe drop-off locations for medicines and sharps across California. Let's keep hazardous materials out of our waterways.
March	Did you know residents of Buellton and Solvang can schedule FREE bulky item pickups with their waste disposal providers? Visit your waste disposal provider's website (Waste Management or Marborg) to learn more and plan ahead. Responsible disposal is just a click away!
April	Spring cleaning doesn't have to mean throwing everything away. Visit the Less Is More website to find out how to reduce, reuse, and recycle. This resource helps you find ways to reduce your trash, look for ways to reuse or repair items that still function, and explore recyclable items that can't go into your blue bin.
May	Got pests? Protect your garden and community by choosing less-toxic pesticides. Check out the Our Water Our World displays at participating retail stores (Farm Supply, Windmill Nursery, Valley Hardware) or visit the OWOW website to learn about less-toxic products to use.
June	Getting your pool or spa ready for summer? Follow these tips to prevent stormwater pollution: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dechlorinate pool water to undetectable levels (< 0.1 mg/L) before draining. Use a pool test kit to confirm. • Drain water to landscaping whenever possible to conserve water. • Rinse filters over landscaped areas, not into streets or drains, and dispose of diatomaceous earth in the trash. Visit your City's Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to learn more about stormwater pollution prevention.
July	Ever seen a rainbow sheen on puddles or stormwater runoff? That's oil, and it's toxic to humans, wildlife, and aquatic ecosystems. One way to help prevent this is to maintain your vehicle so that it doesn't leak fluids, such as oil and antifreeze. If you see staining on the ground under your vehicle, use a drip pan to capture fluids until it can be repaired. If there is a spill, sweep or use absorbent materials, such as kitty litter, and dispose of the material, as well as used oil, anti-freeze, and other hazardous materials at a local hazardous waste collection center. Visit the City's Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to learn about stormwater pollution prevention and the Less Is More website for information about local household hazardous waste collection events.
August	Need to wash your car at home and wondering if this is an authorized activity? Yes and no... Yes, you can wash your car in a driveway or parking lot using clean, potable water. Ideally, the wash water would flow to a landscaped area and not to the gutter or drain. No, you should not use soaps or any chemicals, as these can pollute stormwater runoff. Visit your City's Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to find more vehicle maintenance tips to reduce stormwater pollution prevention.
September	Did you know that pet waste is a major source of bacteria and nutrients in local waterways? Always pick up after your pets and dispose of waste properly to protect water quality. Visit your City's Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to learn more about best management practices for pet owners and animal care & handling facilities.
October	While nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus are essential for plant and animal life, too much can harm our waterways. To reduce nutrient runoff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Avoid applying fertilizers within 48 hours of a storm. • Prevent irrigation runoff that carries fertilizers into storm drains. • Collect and dispose of green waste in your green waste bin. Visit your City's Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to see what days your streets are swept and to learn more about stormwater pollution prevention.



BUELLTON SOLVANG

STORMWATER

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November	Colorful falling leaves can be a beautiful sight to see, but those leaves can clog storm drains and pipes and cause flooding when it rains. Be sure to avoid blowing leaves into the street. Instead, rake or sweep them up. Leaves can be disposed of in green waste bins, composted, or used as mulch in the garden. Visit your City's Stormwater Management webpage (Buellton or Solvang) to see what days your streets are swept and to learn more about stormwater pollution prevention.
December	Recycle your holiday greenery responsibly! Place your Christmas tree and wreath curbside or in your green waste bin after removing decorations, tinsel, lights, and tree stands. Donate reusable ornaments and dispose of damaged ones properly. Visit your waste disposal provider's website (Waste Management or Marborg) for more information.