

## FACT SHEET

**DID YOU KNOW:** Everything that enters a storm drain goes directly to the ocean (litter, used oil, antifreeze, pesticides, sewage, toxic chemicals).



**DID YOU KNOW:** One quart of motor oil dumped down a storm drain can contaminate 250,000 gallons of water. Oil from one engine (4-6) quarts can cause an 8 acre slick. Every year 350 million gallons of used motor oil is discarded in storm drains, waterways, and soil. This is 30 times greater than the Exxon Valdez oil spill!

**DID YOU KNOW:** Fourteen billion pounds of garbage are dumped into the world's oceans every year, most of it in the northern hemisphere.



**DID YOU KNOW :** The largest source of storm water pollution is residents.

**DID YOU KNOW:** The most common pollutant released into storm drains are:

- Fuel and motor oil leaking from cars
- Household cleaning products
- Improperly disposed paint and paint thinner
- Paper, cups and other litter
- Yard waste and fertilizers
- Animal waste left from household pets

## WHAT YOU CAN DO

- DO: Stop erosion on your property by protecting the soil with plants and mulch
- DO: Pick up after your pets
- DO: Use pesticides and fertilizer with care, use organic if possible.
- DO: Drive less, car pool and keep your cars maintained
- DO: Recycle used motor oil and clean up any spills
- DO: Put trash and litter in its place, clean up leaves and yard waste
- DO: Use less water when you wash your car, do not let the hose run and use a bucket with soap and water then drain the water down the sink or in the grass

