



## Commercial Landscape Maintenance

Yard waste, sediments and toxic lawn and garden chemicals used in commercial landscape maintenance often make their way into Lompoc's storm drain system and do not get treated before reaching the Santa Ynez River. This pollutes our drinking water and contaminates local waterways, making them unsafe for people and wildlife. Follow these best management practices to prevent pollution, protect public health and avoid fines or legal action.

**Yard Waste:** Leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste should be composted. Do not blow, sweep, rake or hose yard waste into the street. Let your customers know about grass cycling --the natural recycling of grass by leaving clippings on the lawn when mowing instead of using a grass catcher. Grass clippings will quickly decompose, returning valuable nutrients to the soil. You can get more information at [www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics](http://www.ciwmb.ca.gov/Organics).

**Use Fertilizers, Herbicides & Pesticides Safely:** Fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides are often carried into the storm drain system by sprinkler runoff. Use natural, non-toxic alternatives to traditional garden chemicals. If you must use chemical fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides spot apply rather than blanketing entire areas, avoid applying near curbs and driveways and never apply before or during a rain.

**Recycle Hazardous Waste:** Pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides and motor oil can contaminate rivers, ground water and landfills. Excess materials or used containers of pesticides, fertilizers, herbicides, motor oil should never be disposed of into the gutter, onto soil or into the trash. These items should be taken to a Hazardous Waste Facility. For more information on proper disposal, call (805) 875-8024.

**Use Water Wisely:** Conserve water and prevent runoff by controlling the amount of water used and the direction of sprinklers. Sprinklers should be on long enough to allow water to soak into the ground but not so long as to cause runoff. Periodically inspect, fix leaks and realign sprinkler heads.

**Planting:** Plant local native or drought tolerant, low maintenance vegetation to reduce the need for water, fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides.

**Prevent Erosion:** Erosion washes sediments, debris and toxic runoff into the storm drain system, polluting waterways. Prevent erosion and sediment runoff by using ground cover, mulch, berms and vegetation to slow runoff and prevent erosion. Avoid excavation or grading during wet weather.

**Store Materials Safely:** Keep landscaping materials and debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains. On-site stockpiles of materials should be covered with plastic sheeting to protect from rain, wind and runoff.

