

Clean-up and Storage

- Remove soiled bedding and manure at least 3 times per week from stalls and paddocks.
- Place it in sturdy, insect resistant, leak-proof containers:
 - Plastic garbage cans with lids
 - Fly-tight wooden or concrete storage sheds
 - Composters
 - Pits or trenches with an impermeable liner

So what's the problem?

Bacteria and other pollutants have been found in local creeks, lakes, and the ocean. Exceedances of water quality standards have negatively impacted aquatic life in local water bodies. Rain and irrigation run-off, as well as the run-off of industrial and household water mixed with urban pollutants create stormwater pollution. The pollutants include: oil and other automotive fluids, paint and construction debris, yard and pet wastes, pesticides and litter. Remember, most of what flows into a storm drain or creek ends up in lakes and the ocean without being treated.

The Lakes and Ocean need our help

By implementing the solutions in this pamphlet, you can take part in protecting and improving the water quality of local creeks and lakes, and making our beaches safe.

For more information and ideas, visit these websites:

County of Los Angeles www.CleanLA.com

Environmental Protection Agency

Water: www.epa.gov/learn-issues/learn-about-water

Pesticides: www.epa.gov/safepestcontrol



More Tips

- Call (800) 990-6387 for proper manure disposal.
- Ask local greenhouses or nurseries if they accept composted materials.
- Use the material to fertilize pastures, but not before or during a rainstorm.

Final Word

- Plan ahead with rain & irrigation concerns in mind.
- Store manure and soiled bedding in insect-resistant, seepage free units.
- Call 888-CleanLA (888-253-2652) for environmentally friendly solutions.



**County of Los Angeles
Department of Public Works**

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Clean LA

**Together, we can
make a difference**

**Tips
For Horse Owners**

County of Los Angeles
www.CleanLA.com



Does horse waste worsen water quality? *Yes, if not managed properly.*

Horse waste or manure contains nutrients that make great fertilizer, but in large quantities may cause problems for aquatic life in creeks, wetlands and the ocean.

Manure also contains bacteria which contribute to the total bacteria count in the water when it rains, or sometimes as a result of over-irrigation, manure left uncovered or stored improperly near creeks and storm drains can flow, untreated, directly to the ocean. As a result:

- Nutrients in horse waste fertilize aquatic plants; which causes them to grow at an unnaturally excessive rate and take oxygen away from other aquatic life, causing undesirable impacts.
- Sediment in runoff from livestock facilities harms aquatic life by clogging the gills of fish, blocking sunlight, and raising water temperatures.
- When the bacterial level in ocean water gets too high, notices are posted on beaches to protect the public by prohibiting swimming.

Caring for horses sometimes requires the use of pesticides. These chemicals may also wash into creeks and flow to the ocean, harming aquatic life and people.

Prevention Measures...

Facilities Design

Place barns, corrals and other high-use areas where rain or irrigation will drain away from the nearest creek. Surround the area with pasture, if possible.

- Direct runoff on your property so that it does not cross livestock areas.
- Cover manure storage facilities to protect from rainfall and surface runoff.
- If possible, design diversion terraces that allow runoff to be filtered through vegetation before it enters a creek or storm drain
- Adjust all irrigation to conserve water and avoid runoff.
- Utilize fencing to keep horses away from environmentally sensitive areas and streams.

Grazing

- Divide grazing areas into three or more units of equal size and rotate animals.
- When grass is grazed down to 3 or 4 inches, move horses to another section, allowing the grass to grow to 8 to 10 inches before allowing regrazing.
- If possible, keep animals indoors and away from wet fields during rainfall.



Pesticide Alternatives

Plan your pest management strategy in this order:

- A) Physical Controls
 - Pheromone Traps
 - Tarps
 - Bug Zappers
 - Fly-Tight Storage Sheds
- B) Biological Controls – Nature's Way

These include pest-specific bacterial controls and predatory insects as well as swallows, bats, and other insect eating animals. A healthy vegetative buffer with a variety of native plant species on your property can attract these beneficial predators as well as filter storm water and irrigation runoff.
- C) Chemical Controls – Your Last Resort

Use least-toxic products first:

 - Pyrethrin-based insecticides
 - Dehydrating dusts (e.g. Silica gel)
 - Insecticidal soaps
 - Horticultural oils

Remember - Dumping or allowing anything to run into a creek, gutter or storm drain is ILLEGAL

To report illegal dumping or spills, call (888) 253-2652