

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

Fortunately, there are many ways that individual households can help reduce polluted runoff.

Simple changes to lawns and gardens can make a big difference in both the quality and quantity of runoff from a property, and can also save money.

In addition to simple practices like reducing the amount of pesticides and fertilizers used, planting drought-resistant native plants, and watering lawns efficiently, there are a host of landscaping techniques, collectively referred to as “Low Impact Development,” that can be easily and cost-effectively implemented on residential properties to redirect and capture rainwater for reuse, slow runoff down, remove pollutants, and help water soak into the ground.

These “LID” techniques also help to reduce erosion and flooding, recharge groundwater supplies, and enhance neighborhood aesthetics and real estate values.

## Rain Barrels or Cisterns

Large containers collect rainwater running off rooftops for later reuse to water lawns and gardens.



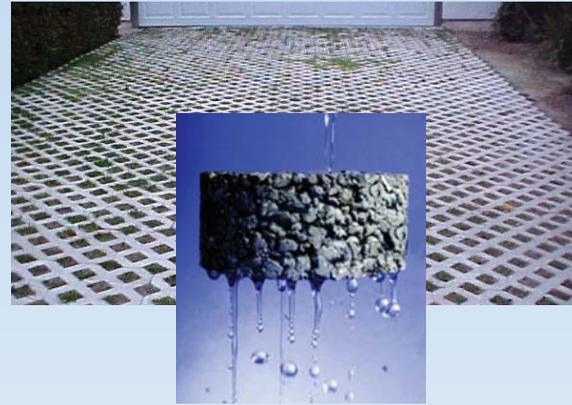
## Rain Gardens

Landscaped depressions in a yard collect and store storm water, allowing it to percolate into the soil or evaporate gradually.



## Permeable Pavements

Pervious concrete, pavers and other permeable pavements allow water to pass through and slowly soak into the soil. They can be used on patios, walkways and driveways.



## Downspout Rerouting

Redirecting rooftop downspouts away from paved areas and onto vegetated areas allows water to soak into the soil rather than running down driveways to storm drains.



# LEARN MORE

Many local municipalities offer incentives and technical assistance to help property owners implement these simple runoff-reducing features on their properties.

Santa Barbara Channelkeeper is also working to promote Low Impact Development as a great way to help reduce runoff pollution. Please visit [www.sbck.org](http://www.sbck.org) to learn more.





Polluted runoff is a bigger problem in densely urbanized areas where a large percentage of the land is covered by hard, impervious surfaces such as roads and buildings.

Impervious surfaces prevent water from soaking into the soil (which filters out pollutants naturally), and a network of gutters and storm drains sends water running off these surfaces - laden with all the accumulated pollutants - straight to creeks and storm water pipes that discharge to the ocean untreated.

These pollutants contribute to beach closures, harmful algal blooms and reduced fish populations.



# GREENER GARDENS FOR A CLEANER OCEAN!

Conserve water,  
save money,  
reduce runoff  
and pollution



*Protecting and restoring the Santa Barbara  
Channel and its watersheds*

714 Bond Avenue  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103  
805.563.3377 ♦ info@sbck.org  
www.sbck.org

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## RUNOFF POLLUTES

“Runoff” is the single biggest source of pollution to California’s waterways. During storms, rain runs over dirty streets, driveways, parking lots, rooftops and lawns, carrying with it a toxic cocktail of pollutants, including disease-causing pathogens, gasoline and lubricants, pesticides, fertilizers, trash, sediment and heavy metals.

Even in dry weather, activities like lawn watering and car washing send polluted water down storm drains.

