

NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUP

Do you know where the storm drain goes? Most people think the storm drain takes water and debris to the sewer treatment plant for processing. This is an incorrect assumption. Storm water and any debris flowing with that water enters the storm drain system that leads directly to Pinole Creek and on to San Francisco Bay. Trash, insecticides and other debris harm the fish and damage their habitat and other water plant life. Animals are caught in and strangled by objects each year, especially common plastics such as plastic bags. Floating objects that are not trapped and removed will eventually end up on the beaches or in the ocean, repelling visitors and residents from beached and degrading coastal waters. Oil from the pavement and other chemicals also pose a threat to our drinking water supply. These chemicals enter streambeds and can filter their way through porous soils into drinking water aquifers to pollute them. This trash becomes more than just a nuisance. It becomes hazardous during the rainy season when large objects like old car parts, furniture, appliances and empty containers, discarded Christmas trees and yard waste obstruct the flow of the creek causing flooding and damage to adjacent properties.

The City of Pinole would like to ask you to do your part by recycling as much as possible. The West Contra Costa Integrated Waste Management Authority can help you with any recycling needs you may have. Visit them at www.recyclemore.com or (510) 215-3125. The West County Household Hazardous Waste Facility is open two days a week, by appointment, and is just one block off the Richmond parkway at 101 Pittsburg Avenue. Drop-off of household hazardous waste such as batteries, paints, motor oil and garden chemicals takes only a few minutes. They also have a free mercury thermometer exchange program. Simply bring your mercury thermometer to them and get a brand new digital thermometer, free of charge. They also provide free needle collection. For an appointment and/or more information on these free programs call 1-888-412-9277. If you are a do-it-yourselfer and change your own motor oil and/or filter, remember to recycle the used motor oil at most auto parts stores. Call 1-8000 CLEANUP for more information. Richmond Sanitary Service can provide you with an oil recycling kit and schedule a curbside used oil collection by calling them at (510) 262-1655.