

Newsletter 2015

How does trash get into our streams, beaches and ocean?



Catch basin full of trash in Honolulu



Trash at Ala Moana Park

Trash is a growing concern both locally and nationwide because of the negative impact it has on marine and wildlife. In addition, trash can harbor pathogens that make our ocean, beaches, and streams unsafe and unpleasant for us to swim and surf in.

Trash ends up in our waterways when wind catches it, when storm water carries it to the storm drain system, or when people dump it. Sources of trash include, but are not limited to:

- Food wrappers, plates, utensils, bags, beverage containers, clothes and toys that are littered or left behind at outdoor recreational events, such as: festivals, concerts, parades, fishing, and picnics.
- Litter from smoking. In some places cigarette butts make up more than 85% of all trash.
- Spills that occur on trash collection day, uncovered or overflowing garbage cans, bins or dumpsters, and wind that knocks trash cans over into the street.
- Uncovered loads and littering from cars and trucks through open windows or doors.
- Food wrappers, beverage containers and receipts from fast food, take-out restaurants, and convenience stores.
- Illegal dumping of household waste, appliances, furniture, building supplies, and tires.

To see a significant reduction in trash everyone needs to make an effort to reduce, reuse, and recycle. Local government agencies have street sweeping, storm drain cleaning and beach cleanup programs. In addition, the City and County of Honolulu passed a plastic bag ban that prohibits the use of all non-recyclable paper and non-biodegradable plastic checkout bags that went into effect on July 1, 2015. You can make help a difference by properly disposing your waste items and by reducing the amount of trash you generate by:

- Buying reusable items instead of disposable
- Buying canvas or other reusable bags to carry groceries and other items
- Use cloth napkins and dishtowels instead of paper ones
- Participating in local beach cleanup and beautifications days

Please take a moment to answer the questions in the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/N8SHQ8H>. The survey is designed for us to assess the general knowledge of storm water pollutants and awareness in Kakaako. We will review all answers to improve our storm water education and outreach program.

Newsletter 2015

Questions for survey:

1. Do you think the overall water quality of Hawaii's streams, rivers and surrounding ocean is:
 - Poor
 - Fair
 - Good
 - Excellent

2. Did you know that water entering the storm drain system is not treated before it flows into our streams and oceans?
 - Yes No

2. Have you noticed the placards on the storm drains that say "Dump No Waste. Protect Our Waters"?
 - Yes No

3. Have you ever seen someone dumped oil, fertilizers, herbicides, paints, soapy water, or household cleaners into the street or storm drain?
 - Yes No

4. Did you know it is illegal to dump oil, fertilizers, herbicides, paints, soapy water, or household cleaners into the street or storm drain?
 - Yes No

5. If you are a pet owner, do you pick up your pet's waste when walking your pet?
 - Yes No Do not own a pet

6. Where do you wash your car?
 - Car wash At home, in the driveway or parking garage/lot At home, on grass area or gravel

7. How often do you litter, toss or leave behind food wrappers, beverage containers, and/or receipt from fast food/take-out restaurants or convenience stores?
 - Never 1-5 times per week 6-10 times per week More than 10 times per week

8. Read through the options and check the box of which of the following option you are most likely to take to reduce the amount of trash you generate:
 - Buying reusable items instead of disposable
 - Buying canvas or other reusable bags to carry groceries and other items
 - Compost kitchen and yard waste
 - Use cloth napkins and dishtowels instead of paper ones
 - Participating in local beach cleanup and beautifications days