

GREENTIP OF THE MONTH

AUGUST



HELP OUT AN OTTER – USE LESS WATER

KEEPING WATERSHEDS CLEAN IS TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE



photo: awesomeocean.com

All storm drains lead to the ocean! Every year, millions of birds, marine mammals, and other sea creatures are impacted by trash. Plastic bags are one cause of entanglement injuries, and as a floating plastic bag looks a lot like a yummy jelly fish, turtles are killed due to ingestion. Floating particles of plastic – broken down into bite size pieces by waves and accidentally ingested – can cause loss of nutrition, intestinal blockage, and other serious health issues. Say No to six pack can rings, Styrofoam cups, balloons, and more that end up in the sea, and pick up any trash you see near lakes, rivers and oceans. Sign up for local habitat restorations, like Oakland Zoo's monthly creek cleanup! For over 40 years Marine Mammal Center, headquartered in Sausalito, has been working to rescue and rehabilitate hundreds of marine mammals a year that are injured, stranded, or orphaned on California coastlines. Let's work together to keep our watersheds clean, so marine animals can enjoy a happy, healthy life!



**CONSERVATION
SOCIETY OF
CALIFORNIA**
TAKING ACTION FOR WILDLIFE

OAKLAND ZOO

oaklandzoo.org

GET THE FACTS

- On average, around 15-25 gallons of water are used in a 5 minute shower.
- The average household's leaks can account for more than 10,000 gallons of water wasted every year, or the amount of water needed to wash 270 loads of laundry.
- Roughly 50% of home water usage of Californians is used for landscaping (watering plants), 18% is used for showers, and 20% is used for toilets.
- About 22,000 bodies of water in the United States are considered "impaired" due to pollution, per the Environmental Protection Agency.



YOU CAN TOO
TIPS YOU CAN USE AT HOME

EASY WAYS TO REDUCE WATER USAGE

- **Actively check for and fix all leaks.** Whether it's your toilet, faucet, pipes, etc., all leaks result in a huge waste of water.
- **Responsibly water your garden.** Water during morning hours when temperatures are the lowest to avoid evaporation. Watering your plants less frequently, but with higher volume, is more efficient. Most efficient? Collecting rain in barrels to be used later.
- **Just say no to lawns.** Switch to drought resistant or native plants and grasses that require less water.
- **Watch what you flush.** Don't put things like cat litter, paper towels, or old medications down the toilet, as you could clog the sewage systems or contaminate water, killing marine life.
- **Don't leave the water running.** Always turn off your water when not directly in use. This goes for brushing teeth, shaving, washing dishes, rinsing your car, etc. Soak dirty pots and pans instead of cleaning them under running water.
- **Reuse that grey water.** Collect the water that gets wasted waiting for the shower to heat up, rinsing vegetables, or soaking dishes and use it to water plants or fill the toilet bowl.
- **Knowledge is power - Understand that storm drains lead straight to the watershed.** Keep storm drains clear of trash and debris. Use biodegradable soap to wash your car, and when you change your oil RECYCLE the oil rather than washing it down your driveway.

