THE CAMPUS STORM WATER SYSTEM

The **sanitary sewer** is a system of underground pipes that carries sewage from bathrooms, sinks, kitchens, and other plumbing components to the wastewater treatment plant. The **storm water system** is designed to carry rainfall runoff – NOT sewage, soil, silt, or debris. The runoff is carried via underground pipes, culverts, ditches, etc. and is discharged **UNTREATED** into streams, lakes, and oceans. Disposal of chemicals or hazardous substances via the storm water sewer system is not only illegal but damages the environment. Pollutants that get into storm drains can poison fish, birds, and other wildlife, and can find their way into drinking water supplies. In addition, silt, litter, and organic matter (branches, clippings, etc.) can clog storm drains and cause flooding.

**Storm Water System Facts**

Materials that must not enter the storm drains include:

- Chemicals (fuels, oils, transmission fluid, pesticides, research wastes, etc.)
- Trash (empty food wrappers, newspapers, cans, dumpster overflow)
- Sand, silt, and soil from erosion, construction activities, gardening, etc.
- Plant debris such as leaves, roots, and branches
- Animal feces
- *Any non-storm water runoff*

**Planning for Storm Water Runoff**

- UCR has a Storm Water Management Plan (SWMP) at [http://ehs.ucr.edu/programs/p3.aspx?id=50&paid=117](http://ehs.ucr.edu/programs/p3.aspx?id=50&paid=117) to ensure storm water quality is protected
- Familiarize yourself with the plan and the best management practices (BMPs) for controlling contamination of storm water - BMPs can be found online at [www.casqa.org/](http://www.casqa.org/)

**Daily Precautions**

- Never pour anything into storm drains
- Plug or protect drains that lead to the storm drain system
- Time pesticide application to avoid sprinkler use or rain
- Keep all drains free of leaves, litter, and debris
- Keep your vehicle in good repair to prevent leaking
- Clean up spills with absorbent; NEVER wash spills into drains
- Don’t hose off sidewalks, driveways, and parking areas; use a broom