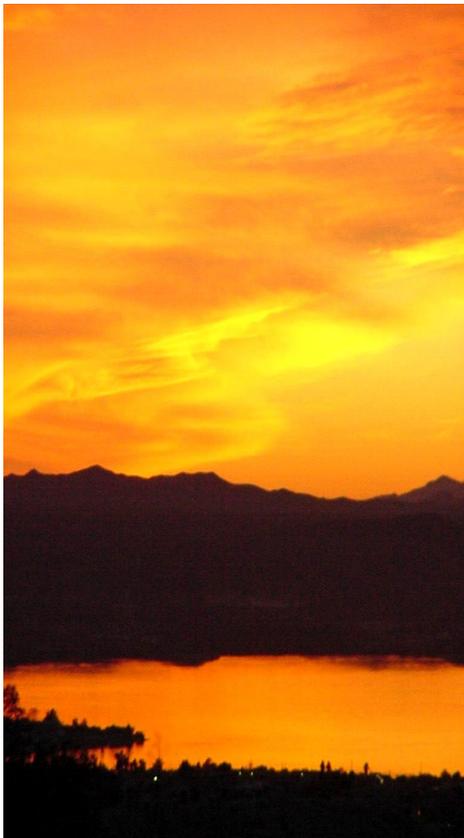




Keeping the streets, washes, and lake free of debris and pollutants will ensure a healthy aquatic environment in Lake Havasu City.

Protecting our beautiful lake from pollution begins with you! Help protect the lifestyle and water resources that make Lake Havasu City a great place to live, work and play!



Lake Havasu City
Community Services
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YOU CAN HELP CONTROL STORM WATER RUNOFF POLLUTION

Storm Water pollution occurs when rain falls on impervious (hard) surfaces such as parking lots and streets. Pollutants like oil, grease, and trash collect as the water drains off the surface and into a nearby waterway. The same pollutants may also enter the waterways as they are sprayed off by residents and business owners who are attempting to clean their property or equipment.



The eastern shoreline of Lake Havasu including the Bridgewater Channel is the primary permanent waterway in Lake Havasu City. All of our washes drain runoff with associated sediment and pollutants directly into the lake.



Why Should You be Concerned about Storm Water Pollution?

First and foremost, Lake Havasu is the City's primary drinking water source and major water source for the Southern California Metropolitan Water District and the Central Arizona Project, which feeds water to the Los Angeles, San Diego, Phoenix, and Tucson metro areas.



Drinking water flowing into the Lake Havasu City Water Treatment Plant from wells next to Lake Havasu.

As chemical pollutants enter the lake and the water filters through the sediment beneath the lake, these pollutants threaten the water quality at our wells. Along with threatening our drinking water these pollutants are capable of discoloring the water and endangering other wildlife. Various species of fish feed on organisms that may be the most susceptible to pollutants. These organisms either die off or can pass the pollutants along to the fish when eaten.



Effects of Storm Water Runoff

- Oil, gas, antifreeze, and other household hazardous wastes including pesticides can travel for long distances affecting the aquatic environment.
- Sediment can cloud the water, interfering with plant growth, larvae development, and fish nesting.
- Bacteria and other pathogens found among grease and other food products may similarly impact fisheries and other aquatic organisms.
- All of the above leads back to the endangerment of human health through the unwary contact or consumption of affected organisms and through the primary drinking water supply.



Steps to Prevention

1) Home and Yard

- Never dispose into drainage channels any yard debris, trash, construction materials, oils, hazardous chemical compounds, or other items as they may impede drainage flow and/or will be carried down the washes towards the lake.
- Check your car for leaks and dispose of your vehicular fluids at a local car maintenance shop. Also, wash your car at a commercial car wash that recycles the water.

- Control erosion from your yard by covering bare surfaces with decorative landscape gravel or drought tolerant plants. Those residences adjacent to washes also may have to add riprap or some other erosion control on the wash slopes to prevent cut back.

Those homes that have drains or conduits directly entering washes must be constructed to minimize down cutting erosion and cut backs.



2) Construction Practices, the 3 C's

- **Control** to prevent materials from entering our washes and the lake.
- **Contain** by isolating the work area to prevent discharges from leaving the site.
- **Capture** by cleaning up daily the debris and pollutants created during your work and disposing of it properly.
- Do not dump leftover dirt, gravel, oil, or cement where streets cross washes as this blocks runoff into the washes.

3) Businesses

- Spraying parking lots or sidewalks to clear debris without pick up and disposal only spreads the material to other places, flushes pollutants into washes, drains and is a waste of water.
- Restaurants need to keep grease traps unclogged to prevent overflow of interceptors and possible discharge into a drainage way or the lake.
- State law requires a business to obtain an AZPDES (Arizona Pollutant Discharge Elimination System) permit before any discharges can take place.