

## Ocean Friendly Gardening Tips

**WATER WISELY:** From 30 to 70 percent of your household's water is used outdoors. Water early in the morning to reduce evaporation. Use sprinklers less on overcast days and never when it rains.

**GET SMART:** "Smart" Controllers can dramatically reduce water use based on weather and soil moisture. West Basin provides incentives for these devices. Please visit [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org) for more information.

**GO NATIVE:** Use native or climate-adapted plants and grasses - and adjust your watering to take advantage of the less-thirsty plants.

**LITTLE AT A TIME:** You don't have to replace your entire lawn, just areas not regularly used. Santa Barbara daisy and thyme are just a two of the substitutes for grass.

**SWEEP IT:** Instead of blowing or hosing leaves and clippings, sweeping is better for the ocean. Don't forget to get the gutters in front of your house.

**ECO PEST CONTROL:** Instead of pesticides and herbicides, ask your nursery about plants that attract beneficial insects and non-toxic home remedies to rid the garden of existing problems.

**HEAP IT ON:** Put a layer of mulch around trees and plants. Chunks of bark, peat moss or gravel slow evaporation.

**FILL IT IN:** Rills and gullies are signs of fast-moving water and erosion. Fill in these crevices with rock and then identify the sources of water to stop or slow the flow.

**BE CREATIVE:** A garden responds to energy and creativity - like surfing, the more fun you have, the better your time and results will be.

To learn more, visit: [www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org)

## It Takes All of Us

The largest source of water pollution cannot be traced to any one point - it's all of us. Pollutants "runoff" our streets, neighborhoods and landscapes. Fortunately, reducing our impact is easy to do.

Whenever water leaves a property it has the ability to take pollutants with it. Fertilizers, pesticides and oil are easily picked up by the power of water. While this runoff is greatest during rain storms, urban runoff occurs all year round as a result of improper irrigation, washing cars, and hosing down driveways.

Runoff from residential landscapes affects the quality of our oceans and the quality of our lives. The sediment in water reduces clarity; nutrients increase algae populations and red tides; bacteria close beaches; debris can choke and suffocate aquatic species; and pesticides picked up off a landscape can poison fish consumed by humans - all of which degrade the natural beauty, and our enjoyment, of the ocean.

The good news is that you can help bring back healthy coasts and oceans through CPR® - Conservation, Permeability and Retention. It is a way for all of us to design and maintain our gardens so that we can reduce urban runoff - and the pollutants that go with it.

**CPR® breathes life  
into the coast.**

To learn more, visit: <http://www.surfrider.org/ofg.asp>

## Surfrider Foundation's Mission

*The Surfrider Foundation is a non-profit environmental organization dedicated to the protection and enjoyment of the world's oceans, waves and beaches, for all people, through conservation, activism, research and education.*

*We are a grassroots organization with local chapters nationwide. These community-based chapters, with their ability to act locally, are our greatest strength. Our success depends on active volunteers, members and donors.*

## About West Basin

*West Basin Municipal Water District is the potable water wholesaler to nearly 900,000 people along the Santa Monica Bay. West Basin strives to provide water reliability by implementing programs that not only conserve water but helps protect the local ecosystem and marine life by reducing urban runoff. In addition, West Basin treats wastewater through its water recycling facility that would otherwise be discharged into the ocean. This Ocean Friendly Gardens Program helps to meet both organizations' goals of water conservation and urban runoff reduction, thereby helping to protect the ocean and provide greater water reliability.*

[www.surfrider.org](http://www.surfrider.org)  
[www.westbasin.org](http://www.westbasin.org)



Surfrider Foundation's

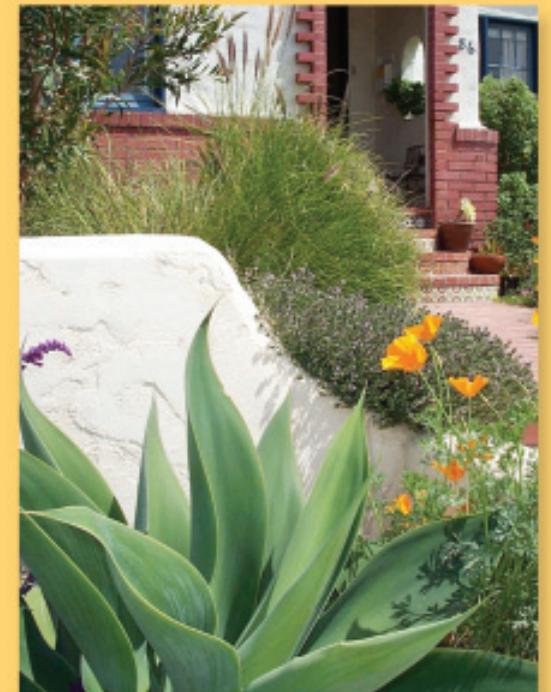
## Ocean Friendly Gardens A Guide

to Gardening

for Cleaner

Waves

and Coasts



In Partnership With:



West Basin  
Municipal Water District

## Apply CPR<sup>®</sup> To Your Landscape

CPR<sup>®</sup> is a method of gardening that protects coastal waters. It is a technique that not only reduces residential runoff, but also helps purify the water that does leave. CPR<sup>®</sup> revolves around Conservation, Permeability and Retention.

### Conservation

Conserving the use of water, fertilizers and pesticides can reduce and improve runoff. Using less water creates a drier landscape, allowing it to hold more rainwater. Applying fewer fertilizers and pesticides, and/or using non-toxic alternatives, improves the condition of the water that does run off a landscape. Restricting grass to the living areas, planting with a diverse range of plants, and selecting plants adapted to the climate are all conservation-oriented design strategies.

### Permeability

A landscape's ability to slow and hold water is related to the amount of permeability. Any increase in the amount of permeable surfaces, however small it may seem, will reduce the amount of runoff. Permeability is increased by changing surface materials, such as substituting concrete areas with brick, stone, or

### Conservation

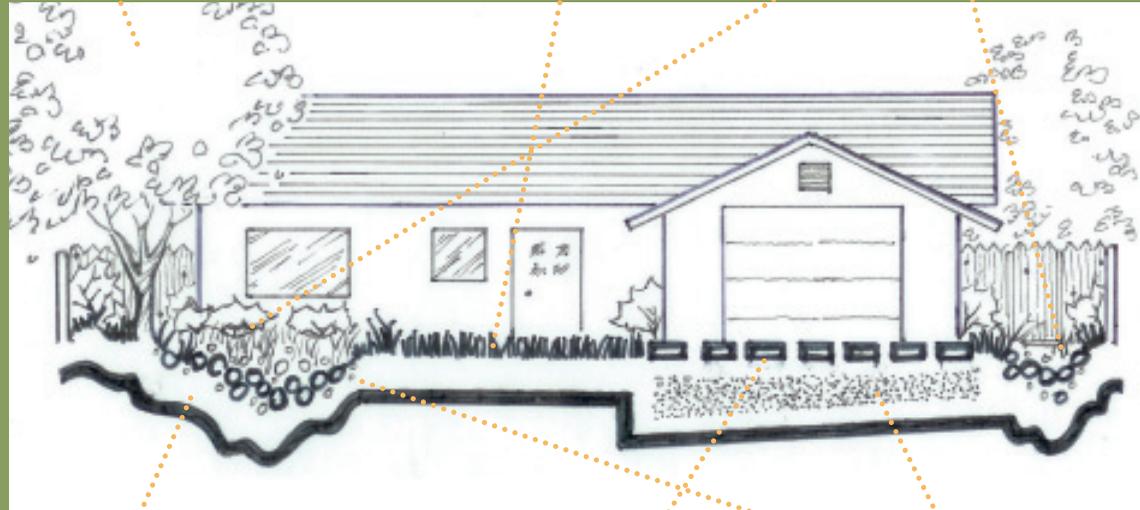
**PLANT A TREE:** Trees can slow wind and water erosion, regulate temperatures – and once established many trees do not require supplemental water.

#### USE GRASS SPARINGLY:

While grass may beautify a yard, and there is no substitute for playing on grass, keeping it green takes a lot of water and treatment. Use grass to extend the living areas, but nowhere else. Substitute drought-resistant ground cover and native species everywhere else.

#### DIVERSIFY & GROUP

**YOUR PLANTS:** Using a wide range of plants in a garden will deter pests and lower the need for fertilizers. Group your plants by water needs and adjust your watering cycles in those zones.



**CREATE CONTOURS:** As good for aesthetics as it is for the ocean, an irregular ground surface will capture more water and allow it to slowly seep into the soil.

**PERMEATE WITH PAVERS:** Instead of solid concrete, use spaced pavers with gravel or other permeable material. Driveways, patios and walkways are all good candidates.

**DIG DEEP:** An infiltration basin is typically the lowest point in a garden and designed to capture and retain rainwater, allowing it to infiltrate.

### Permeability

### Retention

decomposed granite. Creating an irregular ground surface will also improve permeability by putting obstacles in water's path.

### Retention

For either infiltration or use, retention involves strategies that help landscapes collect water. Bio-retention basins and infiltration trenches are commonly constructed devices for rainwater collection and eventual infiltration. A rooftop, rainwater collection system, designed to capture and store water, is another example of retention.

**CPR<sup>®</sup>**  
*breathes life into  
the coast*



*The pictures above and on the cover are examples of Ocean Friendly Gardens after CPR<sup>®</sup>.*