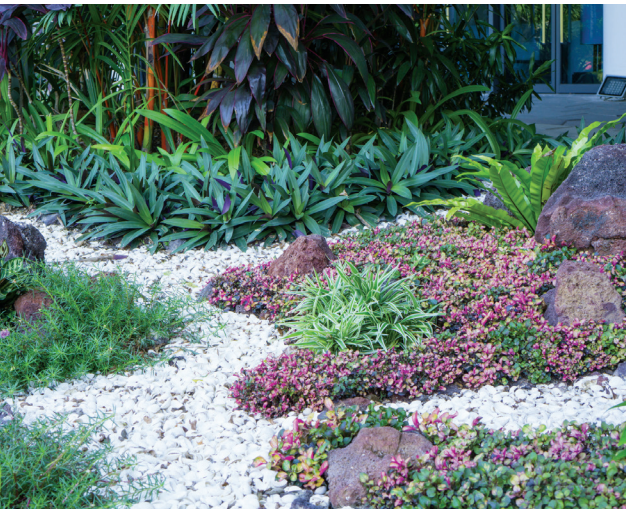


EMERALD KEEPERS

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For an Emerald Green, Ocean Blue Coronado



REDUCING RUNOFF

Hurricane Hilary brought unexpected summer rain to our region. The National Weather Service reported that the two-day total from the remnants of the hurricane amounted to 1.82 inches at the San Diego Airport, which is about 20% of our average annual precipitation.

Unfortunately, most of the rainwater flows straight into the bay and ocean. This runoff picks up contaminants such as soil, fertilizers, pesticides, oil, trash, and animal waste that pollute local waterways.

The San Diego County Department of Environmental Health has a general advisory cautioning people to stay out of coastal waters for 72 hours after 0.2 inches of rain or more due to contamination from urban runoff.

Excessive runoff also contributes to flooding and erosion, destroying property and beaches.

ELEMENTS THAT REDUCE HARMFUL RUNOFF:

- **Landscaping.** Ensure your yard includes permeable surfaces (decomposed granite, woodchips, rocks, etc.) that facilitate water absorption.
- **Redirecting gutters.** Direct downspouts



to permeable landscapes instead of streets and storm drains.

- **Rain catchment systems.** Install a rain barrel to capture up to 55 gallons of water from gutters or spouts that can be used for gardening. One inch of

rain falling on a 1,000-square-foot roof can provide 600 gallons of rainwater. Rain barrels are available at home improvement stores starting around \$100.

If you can use a lot of water for your yard, consider a cistern, which can store up to 20,000 gallons of rainwater. Cisterns are often placed underground and require professional installation.

This year's El Niño weather pattern is expected to bring more heavy rain to Coronado. Now is the time to plan for rain capture.

BENEFITS:

- Reduced pollution in the bay and ocean, protecting marine life harmed by polluted waters.
- Reduced flooding due to blocked drains and water pathways.
- Untreated, clean water for your plants.
- Replenished groundwater that benefits your plants and feeds our water supply.
- Less reliance on outside water sources, such as Colorado River.
- Savings on your water bill.

Capturing rain and reducing runoff helps keep Coronado Emerald Green, Ocean Blue.

SUPPORT EMERALD KEEPERS

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