

# The Storm Drain System

## About the City and County of Honolulu's Storm Drain System

The storm drain system is a vast network of curb inlets, underground pipes, open channels, and outfalls that were designed to prevent flooding. Storm drains were designed to be the fastest and most efficient way of getting rainwater off streets and parking lots. Urban runoff drains from the street into the gutter, and enters the system through an opening in the curb called a catch basin. Catch basins serve as the neighborhood entry point for the journey into the ocean. The City and County of Honolulu maintains the public storm drain system contained within dedicated storm drain easements.

Water in the storm drain system receives no treatment or filtering process and is completely separate from the City's sewer system. The graphic to the right shows the path sequence that urban runoff takes as it travels through the storm drain system.

Each dot on the map below represents a catch basin. The storm drain system consists of more than 20,000 catch basins and over 670 miles of underground pipes and channels that discharge directly into our coastal waters.

Unfortunately, the water that flows into a storm drain carries trash and sediment from the street, nutrients in the form of fertilizers, and toxics in the form of pesticides, household cleaners, gasoline and motor oil. All of the water in the storm drains ends up in the ocean.

