Adopt-A-Drain
Guidelines and Cleaning Tips

Thank you for adopting one or more San Mateo storm drains to keep them free of leaves and litter. By keeping storm drains clear, you decrease storm flooding, protect water quality, and keep trash from storm drains and connected creeks and the Bay. Your commitment helps protect the environment and our neighborhoods.

A 6-month volunteer commitment requested.

Safety Guidelines:

- Work from the sidewalk. Stay out of the street.
- Wear a bright reflective work vest or bright-colored clothing.
- Wear appropriate footwear, clothing, sunscreen and keep hydrated.
- Protect your hands. Wear gloves and use tools to reach for objects.
- Sweep, rake, or shovel glass. Never pick up sharp objects with your bare hands.

Drain Cleaning Tips:

- Clean your drain before it starts raining.
- Clear storm drain inlet of trash and debris; Clean 10 feet on either side of the drain.
- Do not lift or remove the grate or cover; this is unsafe and may result in injury.
- Separate collected materials into recycling, green waste/compost, and trash for landfill.
- When practical, place recyclables and smaller trash bags into residential refuse bins.
- Do not use power tools.
- Carry tools carefully, keeping them close. Count and clean tools after use.
- Use correct tools for the job. Ask a team leader or City staff if you are unsure.
- Never allow children to play with tools or use sharp objects.
- Return borrowed tools and supplies.
- Construction, medical, or hazardous waste? **Call 650-522-7300** or use the My San Mateo Online Service Request Portal to report such items for pickup by City staff and special drain service.
- Use above form when debris exceeds one's regular garbage and green waste pickup service capacity. Be sure to specify the address and quantity of debris bags.

General Conduct:

- Be courteous to fellow volunteers, neighbors, and City employees.
- Never make unauthorized changes to City property, right-of-way, or landscaping.
- Keep foreign plants, mulch and soils off City property and right-of-way, unless authorized by Public Works.

Questions? Contact Public Works **650-522 -7296** or email AdoptaDrain@cityofsanmateo.org to arrange to pick up your Bucket & Supplies and review the Guidelines.

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