



Homeowners Guide to Stormwater

What is Stormwater?

Stormwater is water that flows across the ground and pavement. This occurs when snow/ice melts and when it rains. Sometimes the water is infiltrated, meaning it soaks into the ground. Other times, stormwater enters a conveyance system and enters the local waterways. Conveyance systems can include swales, ditches, storm drains, and other systems. The draining water is called stormwater runoff.

Stormwater runoff can be problematic. The stormwater picks up contaminates as it runs over the surfaces. Contaminates can include pesticides, household chemicals (paint solvents, cleaners, auto fluids, etc.), sediment, and trash. The contaminates are carried to the local waterway through stormwater conveyance systems.



WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP?



CAR WASHING

Wash your car at a commercial car wash. The water discharged is treated before going to the local waterways. If using a commercial car wash is not an option, wash your car on the grass. This give the water the opportunity to infiltrate and clean the pollutants.



FERTILZERS & PESTICIDES

Use sparingly.

Use time release fertilizers. These fertilizers release nutrients over time. This will reduce the amount of pollutants that stormwater runoff picks up. Avoid pesticides and herbicides when possible.



PET WASTE

Clean up pet waste. Even in your yard. Pet waste contains bacteria and parasites that stormwater runoff picks up. The bacteria and parasites are washed into the local waterways untreated. Pet waste can also pollute ground water and wells.



AUTO MAINTENANCE

Maintain your vehicle to prevent leaks. Leaks on your driveway wash into stormwater systems when it rains. Spills happen! **ALWAYS** clean up your spills properly. Use kitty litter or sawdust to absorb the spill. Then sweep it up and dispose of it in the trash. Dispose of oil and any other auto waste properly. **NEVER** dump the waste on the ground or in the stormwater systems.



HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS

ALWAYS dispose of household chemicals properly. Household Chemicals can include: Paint Solvents/Thinners Cleaning Supplies Swimming Pool Chemicals **NEVER** dump household chemicals outside where it could enter into the stormwater system. Remember all stormwater runoff goes to local waterways, **UNTREATED!**



PICK UP TRASH

Pick up trash if you see it. This prevents trash from washing into the stormwater systems and going to the local waterways. We need your help!



✓ **ALWAYS** report illegal dumping or pollution concerns!

✓ If you must use fertilizers and/or pesticides, **USE SPARINGLY!**

✓ **NEVER** dump hazardous material on the ground or in a stormwater system.

Your actions make a difference! Every little bit helps!