

WHEN IT RAINS



IT POLLUTES!

A homeowner's guide to healthy habits for clean water



DID YOU KNOW?

As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns, and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants. Stormwater can flow into storm sewer systems or directly into a creek, stream, river, wetland or lake. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water. Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean waters.

By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings, and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these healthy habits and help protect creeks, streams, rivers, wetlands or lakes. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors!

What Can Citizens Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution?

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on lawn or other unpaved surfaces to minimize runoff.
- Check vehicles for leaks.
- Recycle used motor oil and other automotive fluids.

Lawn and Garden

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. Avoid application if forecast calls for rain.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought resistant.
- Sweep up yard waste instead of washing it away.
- Don't overwater your lawn. Adjust sprinklers so that you're not watering the street or sidewalk.
- Redirect roof gutters to lawns and natural areas.

Home Repair and Improvement

- De-chlorinate swimming pool discharge.
- Clean paint brushes in sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner. Properly dispose of excess paints through the household hazardous waste collection program.

Pet Care

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose waste properly in a trash receptacle or flush it down the toilet.

REPORT SPILLS, DUMPING OR SUSPECTED WATER POLLUTION



Contractor dumping into storm drain



Restaurants wash water and litter draining into alley storm drain



Dirty dumpster leaking liquids and trash on ground

For More Information

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