

Pet Waste

Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria and excess nutrients in local waters.



- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Seal the waste in a plastic bag and throw it in the trash. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving

pet waste on the ground increase public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.

Swimming Pool and Spas



- Whenever possible drain your pool or spa into the sanitary sewer system.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to prevent leaks or spills preferably in a cover area to avoid exposure to storm water.

Gutter Maintenance

Fallen leaves and grass clippings in gutters can plug storm drains, flooding our roads and harming our creeks. When grass clippings and too many decomposing leaves are put in our streams, unnaturally high levels of nutrients can harm aquatic wildlife.

- Yard waste such as grass clippings, tree trimmings, and leaves can be composted and used for fertilizer around the yard.

- Keep all fallen leaves and grass clipping, and trash from your property; off of the sidewalks and out of the gutter and streets.



- Set your lawn mower to mulch and mow high. Taller grass retains moisture and catches grass clippings
- If you see a storm drain that is clogged and can clear it without placing yourself in danger, please remove the leaves. Use a rake to help you reach the leaves without entering the street. Residents are not expected to work in the road to remove leaves.



Note: To report a clogged storm drain catch basin, call 530-633-2761 or after hours call -530-633-0926.

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STORMWATER POLLUTION

A Citizen's Guide to Understanding Storm Water Pollution



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What is Storm water Runoff?

Storm water runoff occurs when the precipitation from rain flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent storm water from naturally soaking into the ground.

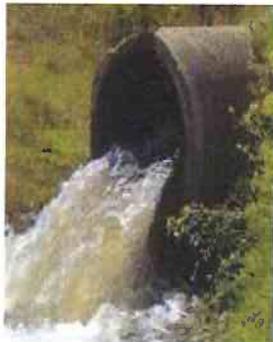


Why is storm water Runoff a Problem?

Storm water can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into the storm drain system and go directly to lake, stream, river, or wetland. Anything that enters a storm drain system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming or fishing, etc.

The Effects of Pollution.

Polluted storm water runoff can have an adverse effect on plants, fish, animals, and people.



- Sediment can cloud the water and make it difficult or impossible for aquatic plants to grow. Sediment also can destroy aquatic habitats.
- Excess nutrients can cause algae blooms.

When algae die, they sink to the bottom and decompose in a process that removes oxygen from the water. Fish and other aquatic organisms can't exist in water with low dissolved oxygen levels.

- Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.
- Debris-plastic bags, six-pack rings, bottles, and cigarette butts-washed in water bodies can choke, suffocate, or disable aquatic life like ducks, fish, turtles, and birds.

- Household hazardous waste like insecticides, pesticides, paints, solvents, use motor oil, anti-freeze and other auto fluids can poison aquatic life. Land animals and people can become sick or die from eating diseased fish and shell fish or ingesting polluted water.



- Polluted storm water often affects drinking water sources. This, in turn, can effect human health and increase drinking water treatment cost.

Practicing Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or unpaved surface to minimize the amount of soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually your local water body.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other machinery and equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand and don't rinse the spill into a nearby storm drain. Remember to proper dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle old oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



Lawn & Garden

Use Pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary use the chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain; otherwise chemicals will be washed into your local storm drain and eventually

- Select native plants and that are drought and pest-resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris \, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day and don't let water run off into storm drain.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local water bodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and improvement

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spilld immediately, and dispose of the waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.