

STORMWATER RUNOFF

Polluted stormwater runoff can have many adverse effects on plants, fish, animals and people.

Sediment can 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.

Bacteria and other pathogens can wash into swimming areas and create health hazards.

Debris and household hazardous wastes like insecticides, pesticides and paint washed into water bodies can harm aquatic life.



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**STORMWATER
POLLUTION
PREVENTION
TIPS**

STORMWATER POLLUTION

Easy Ways to Protect our Water:

1. Never dump anything, including grass clippings and yard waste, down storm drains or in streams
2. Vegetate bare spots in your yard
3. Wash your car at a car wash
4. Use pesticides and fertilizers properly
5. Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil



STORMWATER MANAGEMENT

The term storm water refers to rainwater. It washes down storm drains on curbs of roads and goes directly into lakes, rivers and streams. Unlike wastewater, it is not treated and can carry pollutants, sediments and trash into natural water resources.

One way residents can help is by caring for their yards in ways that are friendly to the environment. Over-watering yards after using fertilizers and pesticides cause runoff that contributes to nonpoint source pollution. Fertilizers can cause aquatic growth, which depletes water of oxygen. Pesticides can contaminate wildlife. Using native plants, composting and reducing use of fertilizers and pesticides are all ways we can help!



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Web sites:

www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater or
www.epa.gov/nps