

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Stormwater Runoff

- Stormwater Runoff occurs when precipitation from rain flows over the ground.
- Impermeable surfaces (such as driveways, sidewalks, and streets) prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground.
- Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants.
- Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the water we use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.
- Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Stormwater Pollution

Easy ways to protect our water:

- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.
 - Wash your car at a car wash.
 - Check your car for leaks and recycle your motor oil.
- Leaves don't belong in the storm drain
- Clean up after your pet.
 - Don't Litter.
 - Use the least toxic pesticides, follow labels and learn how to prevent pest problems.
 - Compost your yard waste.
 - Never dump anything down storm drains or in streams.

Stormwater Management

- The term stormwater 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.

Lawn Care

- Don't overwater your lawn.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Don't leave it in the street or sweep it into storm drains or streams.
- Cover piles of dirt or mulch being used in landscaping projects.
- You can collect rainwater from rooftops in mosquito-proof containers. The water can be used later on lawn or garden areas.
- Vegetated Filter Strips- filter strips are areas of native grass or plants created along roadways or streams. They trap the pollutants stormwater picks as it flows across driveways and streets.

Pet Waste

- Pet waste can be a major source of bacteria in local waters.
- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks.

Septic Systems

- Leaking and poorly maintained septic systems release nutrients and pathogens (bacteria and viruses) that can be picked up by stormwater and discharged into nearby waterbodies.
- Inspect your system every 3 years and pump as necessary.
- Don't dispose of household hazardous waste in sinks or toilets.



For more information visit: www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

Take notice of these markers, they are there for the protection of our water source:

