

# 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.

## 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.



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For more information visit: [www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater)



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



**Leaves & grass don't belong in the storm drain**

