

A Citizen's Guide for Stormwater Runoff and Pollution Prevention

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground. Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river, wetland, or coastal water. Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies where aquatic habitats live and that people use for swimming, fishing, and providing drinking water.



Stormwater Pollution Prevention Tips

By practicing these healthy household habits, homeowners can help keep pollutants off of the ground and out of stormwater;

- ◆ Use pesticides/fertilizers very sparingly
- ◆ Don't overwater you lawn
- ◆ Consider collecting rainwater for reuse with a rain barrel
- ◆ Install a native plant rain garden on your property
- ◆ Keep yard waste out of the street, storm drain and ditch
- ◆ Pick up pet waste and properly dispose of it
- ◆ Put litter in the trash and not on the ground
- ◆ Properly dispose of hazardous household chemicals such as paints and solvents
- ◆ Repair vehicle leaks immediately and recycle used vehicle fluids
- ◆ Wash cars on the grass or at a commercial car wash

Adopt these healthy household habits and help protect our waterways!