

City of Waterloo
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Waterloo, Iowa 50703

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Waterloo, IA

STORM WATER AND YOU

Some everyday things you can do
to help keep our water clean.



Waterloo
Storm Water
Management Program



The Water Quality Act of 1987, an amendment to the Clean Water Act of 1972, added storm water discharges from municipalities and industrial sources to the list of controlled releases into public waters. The City of Waterloo has been under an Iowa DNR issued NPDES Phase II Storm Water Discharge permit since 2004. This brochure to raise public awareness about storm water, is part of the public education component of the City's permit.

Sanitary sewers and storm sewers are two separate systems. Sanitary sewers (i.e. toilets, sinks, bathtubs) are treated before being released into our public waters. Storm sewers (i.e. rain water) are not treated before being released into our public waters. Anything placed in a storm sewer will end up in our creeks, lakes and rivers, some of our most important and endangered wildlife and recreation places.

What can I do to promote clean storm water?

Around the home and garage:

- Recycle used automotive oil, fluids and batteries. Contact a local service station for drop-off information.
- Routinely check vehicles and equipment for leaks and fix them in a timely manner.
- Wash vehicles and equipment in the grass to prevent detergents and chemicals from entering the storm drain.
- Water-based paints can be dried out and then placed into the garbage. Lead or oil-based paints can be disposed of during hazardous material collection events.
- Share unused cleaning products. Dispose of unwanted chemicals at a hazardous material collection event.

Around the yard:

- Adjust mowing practices so that grass clippings are not blown into the street. Mowing grass into the street is illegal in Waterloo.
- Compost, recycle or properly dispose of yard wastes.
- Aerate the lawn to increase water absorption.
- Pick up and properly dispose of your pet's droppings.
- Follow directions for herbicides, pesticides and fertilizers. Sweep up any material from driveways and sidewalks.
- Direct downspouts towards plants or grassy areas, not pavements.
- Install a rain garden, a specialized garden designed to capture water flows and provide an avenue for infiltration.
- De-chlorinate your swimming pool before draining.

Around the neighborhood:

- Pick up trash during your walks. This keeps trash out of the storm sewer system and helps beautify the neighborhood.
- Report any pollution, illegal dumping or soil erosion problem to the proper authorities. Waterloo Storm Water Hotline: (319) 291-4553

Hazardous Material Collection Reminder:

The next Household Hazardous Material collection event will be held on Saturday, September 25, 2010 at the Cedar Falls Utilities campus from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm. Contact WasteTrac at 319-266-8722 for more information.

