

Rain, Rain...



What is Stormwater?

Swirling
Dirty
Warm
Wasted

Stormwater causes problems in our fresh-water systems renewing our water systems.

Stormwater is rainwater that is channeled past important natural paths.

Stormwater is rainwater that picks up pollution as it flows over hard surfaces and runs off our properties.



What is Rainwater?

Calm
Clear
Cool
Valuable

Rainwater is nature's way of renewing our water systems.

Rainwater accesses natural paths as part of the water cycle.

Rainwater is a valuable resource that is often lost. Rainwater should be held and used on the land where it falls.

THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION!

We each contribute to the problem. We each need to contribute to the solution.

Please Don't Feed the Storm Drain

When grass clippings, pet waste, automotive products, fertilizers, pesticides and other chemicals wash down a storm drain, they don't go away. They flow into rivers and lakes, harming plants and animals and contaminating the water we drink. The technical term is "nonpoint source pollution".

Here's how to possibly make sure that you don't help feed the storm drain:

YARD

Two of our biggest sources of nonpoint source pollution are over-watering and excessive use of fertilizers and pesticides. Here are some tips for reducing nonpoint source pollution from your yard

- Do not over-fertilize. Sweep (do not wash) fertilizer and soil off driveways and walkways. Use native and adapted plants and grasses that require less water and fertilizer.
- Leave grass clippings on the lawn to retain moisture and to insulate and nourish the soil.
- Use nontoxic pest controls.

AUTO

Each year, Iowa improperly dumps thousands of gallons of used motor oil. One quart can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water. Autos contribute to nonpoint source pollution in other ways, too. To reduce nonpoint pollution:

- Recycle motor oil, filters, fluids and batteries by taking them to service stations that have a recycling program, or call for the motor-oil recycling center nearest you.
- Drive less to reduce auto runoff.

PETS

Every year, thousands of pounds of pet waste wash down storm drains and into rivers, lakes and other sources of drinking water. For your health and the health of others, please pick up after your pet.

- Pick up pet waste from your lawn. It is not a fertilizer.
- Encourage friends and family to pick up after their pets, using a mutt mitt or disposable plastic bag, and never allow pet waste to wash into storm drains.

HOME

Although most cleaners, paints and pesticides used at home go into the trash or down the drain, if they are used outside or are improperly discarded, they create nonpoint source pollution.

- Use cleaning products that are phosphate free, biodegradable, or nontoxic, especially if they are used outdoors. Avoid products with ammonia, chlorine, diethylene glycol, hydrochloric acid, oxalic acid and petroleum solvents.
- Discourage insects by practicing good housekeeping. If you must eradicate insects, avoid toxic chemicals, or use pest control companies that use less toxic products.





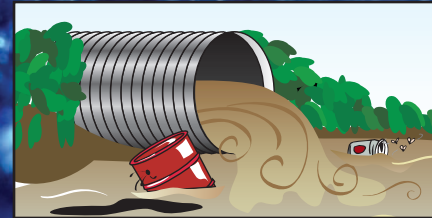
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**Rain, Rain...
What flows around
comes around.**



 **THIS can become THIS with your help.** 