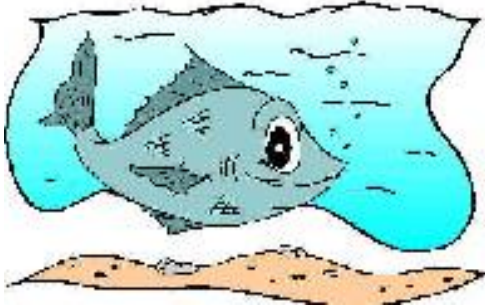


STORMWATER INFORMATION & GUIDELINES

Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.



As stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Anything that enters a storm drain system is discharged untreated into waterbodies used for swimming, fishing and drinking water.

By practicing healthy habits, homeowners can keep common pollutants like pesticides, pet waste, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of stormwater. Adopt these habits and help protect lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and coastal waters. Remember to share the habits with your neighbors.



For more information, including rain garden instructions, low-maintenance plants and more see the Greenscapes website or EPA's Soak Up the Rain website.

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Vehicle and Garage



Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirty and soapy water flowing into storm drains and eventually into your local waterbody.

Check your car, boat, motorcycle and other machinery or equipment for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with absorbent material like kitty litter or sand and don't rinse the spills into a nearby storm drain. Remember to properly dispose of the absorbent material.

Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations. Don't dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



Lawn and Garden



Use a rain barrel to capture roof runoff for outdoor watering

Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly and always use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rains; otherwise, chemicals will be washed into your local stream.

Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer and pesticides.

Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.

Don't overwater your lawn. Water during the cool times of the days and don't let water run off into the storm drain.

Cover piles of dirt and mulch being use in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local waterbodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvement

Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other materials.



Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.

Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible and follow the directions of the label. Clean up spills immediately and dispose of the water safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.

Purchase and use non-toxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products whenever possible.



Clean paint brushes in a sink and not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through the town's household hazardous waste collection program.

Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants when landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns or used a rain barrel to capture this roof runoff for irrigation.

