

Storm Water MANAGEMENT

What you can do at home.

Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged untreated into the waterbodies we use for swimming, fishing and providing drinking water. Polluted storm water runoff is a threat to clean water.



Roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns prevent storm water from soaking into the ground. As storm water flows over these areas, it can dissolve, pick up and transport things such as automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil.



When these pollutants make their way into streams and rivers, they can destroy fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health.

WHAT TO DO	WHAT NOT TO DO
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep chemicals, yard waste and other material out of storm drains. • Choose native plants which don't require a lot of water and are resistant to insects and disease. • Use a rain barrel or plant a rain garden. • Control soil erosion - plant ground cover and stabilize erosion-prone areas. • Control insects naturally - Provide habitat for birds, bats and toads and introduce praying mantises, lacewings, ladybugs and other pest-eaters to your garden. • Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water. • Check your car and other machinery for leaks and spills. Make repairs as soon as possible. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over water – use trickle irrigation or soaker hoses instead of sprinklers. • Over apply – follow pesticide and fertilizer directions carefully for the best results. • Over buy – only purchase what you need and follow the directions for proper storage and disposal. • Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. • Mow too low – set the mower blades to cut the grass two or three inches high. Mow often and leave the clippings to retain moisture and provide nutrients to the soil. • Never put used oil and other fluids down the storm drain. Recycle oil and fluids at a service or recycling center. • Never rinse oil or chemical spills into the storm drain. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand.