

Preventing Storm Water Runoff Pollution

What Causes Storm Water Runoff Pollution?

Polluted runoff is caused by everyday activities. Normal rainfall carries pollutants from our driveways, parking lots, streets, yards, and other areas, and places them into our local waterways.

Some examples of pollutants that can harm our water quality are:

- Household Trash
- Sediment
- Yard Waste
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides & Herbicides
- Oil & other vehicle fluids

How is Water Quality Affected?

There are many ways that storm water runoff pollution has an impact on our local lakes, rivers, and streams. Harmful bacteria, such as from pet waste or a failing septic system may hinder or prevent many recreational uses.

Sediment, metals, herbicides, pesticides and oxygen depleting nutrients can harm aquatic organisms and may even threaten our drinking water supplies.

Waters that have been “over fertilized” result in increased algal growth, a decrease in dissolved oxygen, and ultimately decrease the fish populations.

Litter also contributes to water impurity because it pollutes the waterways as it breaks down.

How Can You Help?

- Properly dispose of trash and automobile fluids.
- Bag or compost yard waste for landscaping or gardening use.
- Properly maintain your vehicle and make repairs as soon as leaks are detected.
- Establish grass on bare soil.
- Properly maintain your septic system.
- Take a moment to pick up litter.
- Wash your vehicle on your lawn to reduce soap runoff.
- Reduce the use of herbicide, pesticide, and fertilizer use and use environmentally friendly products.
- Never pour anything into the storm drain!

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Runoff Pollution, also known as Non-Point Source Pollution, is now considered the leading cause of pollution affecting our nation's waters by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



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