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# Stormwater Awareness

## Only Rain Down the Drains

### What is stormwater?

Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater from naturally soaking into the ground.

### Why is stormwater runoff a problem?

Stormwater can pick up debris, chemicals, dirt, and other pollutants and flow into our storm drain and storm sewer system or directly into our lakes, streams, rivers, ponds, or wetlands. Anything that enters our storm drain and storm sewer systems is discharged, untreated into these water bodies that we use for fishing, recreation and providing drinking water. Stormwater runoff has been identified by the EPA as the nation's main cause of water quality problems.

### How can you help prevent stormwater pollution?

Follow these simple guidelines to keep stormwater leaving your home or workplace clean:

- Never dump anything down the storm drains.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Sweep up driveways and sidewalks.
- Repair all auto leaks.
- Recycle or dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids, and batteries at designated collection or recycling location.
- Make sure that you do not litter and when you see litter on the ground, pick it up.
- Compost or mulch yard waste. Do not leave it in the street or sweep it into the storm drains.
- Clean up after you pet.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or unpaved surface.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.