

THE SOLUTION TO STORMWATER POLLUTION!

Protecting Our Water Starts at Home

When rain flows across driveways, lawns, rooftops, and sidewalks, it picks up whatever is on the ground—dirt, chemicals, trash, pet waste, fertilizers, and automotive fluids. This polluted runoff enters nearby storm drains and is discharged **directly into local lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and coastal waters—without treatment.** These are the same waters we use for swimming, fishing, wildlife habitat, and drinking water. The EPA identifies stormwater runoff as **the nation's leading source of water pollution**, but the solution begins right at home.

Why Stormwater Pollution Matters

Pollutants from neighborhoods can:

- Reduce oxygen in waterways and harm fish
 - Create harmful algal blooms from excess fertilizer
 - Increase flooding by clogging drains with debris and sediment
 - Introduce bacteria from pet waste into recreational waters
 - Add plastics and trash that threaten wildlife and human health
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Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

Small actions at home = Cleaner water everywhere.

1. Wash Vehicles Properly

- Use a commercial car wash **or** wash your vehicle on the lawn, where soil filters pollutants.
- Avoid driveway washing that drains soaps and grime directly into the storm system.

2. Maintain Vehicles & Equipment

- Check cars, boats, mowers, and motorcycles for leaks.
- Repair leaks quickly to prevent oils and chemicals from washing away during rainfall.

3. Clean Up Spills the Right Way

- Never hose down chemicals or fluids.
- Use kitty litter, mulch, or sand to absorb spills. Sweep and dispose of materials in the trash.

4. Choose Native Plants & Smart Landscaping

- Native plants reduce watering, require fewer chemicals, and stabilize soil.
- Use groundcover or mulch to keep soil in place.

5. Manage Yard Waste Responsibly

- Sweep grass, leaves, and debris back into your yard—never into streets or drains.
- Compost when possible and keep drains clear, especially during fall leaf drop.

6. Water Lawns Wisely

- Avoid over-watering; runoff carries fertilizer and soil into storm drains.
- Water early in the morning or late afternoon to reduce evaporation.

7. Prevent Soil Erosion

- Cover bare patches with sod, seed, or mulch.
- Redirect downspouts to vegetated areas instead of driveways or paved surfaces.

Together We Protect Our Water

Each simple habit reduces pollution, protects wildlife, improves neighborhood drainage, and keeps our rivers and streams healthy. Cleaner stormwater begins at home—and every responsible action helps keep our community cleaner, safer, and more resilient.

Thank you for doing your part to protect our local waterways!