

Clean Water Is Everybody's Business

Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water. Therefore, be mindful of any polluting agent left exposed to natural rainfall since it has the potential to be picked up by stormwater runoff and carried directly to a nearby stream, lake or river. These pollutants can seriously harm water quality and create harmful effects on drinking water supplies, recreation, fisheries and wildlife.

Pollution sources include:

- Excess fertilizers, herbicides and insecticides from agricultural lands and residential areas
- Debris, oil, grease and toxic chemicals from urban runoff
- Sediment from improperly managed construction sites, crop and forest lands, and eroding stream banks
- Bacteria and nutrients from livestock, pet wastes and faulty septic systems

To keep the stormwater leaving your home or workplace clean, follow these simple guidelines:

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Repair auto leaks.
- Dispose of household hazardous waste, used auto fluids (antifreeze, oil, etc.), and batteries at designated collection or recycling locations.
- Clean up after your pet.
- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface.
- Sweep up yard debris rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program.
- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris like concrete and mortar.
- Direct downspouts away from paved surfaces.
- Have your septic tank pumped and system inspected regularly.
- Never dump anything down storm drains.