

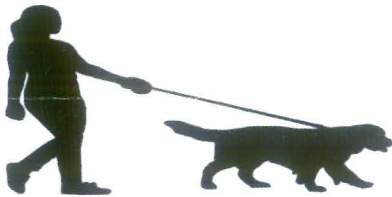
Preventing stormwater pollution.....simple tips you can follow because **clean water is all of our responsibility**

In urban and suburban areas, much of the land surface is covered by buildings & pavement, which do not allow rain and snowmelt to soak into the ground. Instead, these developed areas rely on storm drains to carry large amounts of runoff from roofs and paved areas to nearby waterways. This stormwater runoff carries pollutants such as oil, dirt, chemicals, and lawn fertilizers directly to streams & rivers where they can harm water quality, fish, wildlife populations, kill native vegetation and make recreational areas unsafe and unpleasant.

Here are some things you can do to help be a solution to stormwater pollution:

Lawn & garden:

- Use fertilizer responsibly
- Apply fertilizers only when necessary & at the recommended amount.
- Don't apply fertilizer before windy or rainy days
- Fill fertilizer spreaders on hard surfaces so any spills are easy to clean up
- Try grasscycling when you mow – it is essentially “mow & go” by leaving the grass clippings on your lawn
- Do NOT blow or rake the grass clippings or yard debris into the stormwater drains.
- Don't overwater yards & gardens.
- Landscape with native plants.



Pet Care:

When walking your pet, remember to **pick up the waste** and dispose of it properly. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria to wash into the storm drain and local water bodies.

Garage & vehicle:

- Check your car, truck, recreational vehicles for leaks and spills. Clean up spills quickly with absorbent material such as kitty litter or sand. Do NOT rinse the spill into the storm drain.
- **Recycle** used oil and other automotive fluids
- Use commercial car washes or wash your vehicle/machinery on nonpaved surfaces such as grass or gravel. This helps to minimize the amount of dirty soapy water flowing into storm drains and eventually into rivers, streams and other bodies of water



Home Repair and Improvement

- Sweep up & properly dispose of any debris you may have used during construction.
- **Clean paint brushes in a sink**, not outdoors. Filter & reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of unused paint & other hazardous materials.
- Before beginning a project outdoors **locate and protect** any nearby storm drains to prevent debris & other material from getting in the drains.

