

You can be the Solution to Stormwater Pollution

After it rains, the streets look cleaner - and that's a problem. Stormwater rushing over paved surfaces picks up everything from motor oil, grease, harmful bacteria, fertilizers, pesticides, to litter and flows either directly or through storm drains into our lakes, streams, and rivers. One of the greatest threats to the quality of our region's rivers and creeks is from runoff pollution, but you can help improve the quality of this important resource.

- Don't dump motor oil, antifreeze, or other chemicals down the storm drain. The only thing that should go down a storm drain is rain.
- Consider water-based paints and wash your brushes in the sink with water. (Water from your house goes to a wastewater treatment plant before going back into the watershed.)
- Reuse and recycle paint thinner. Don't pour it down the sink or storm drain.
- Minimize the use of toxic substances including mothballs, drain and oven cleaners, and many other products. Substitute with products that include natural ingredients whenever possible.
- Place dog waste in the toilet or trash can, not in the street or down the storm drain. Dog waste introduces disease-causing bacteria into our water supply.
- Keep litter off the street including cigarette butts, coffee cups, fast food wrappers, and other trash. Put waste in receptacles and clean up street litter so it doesn't get washed or blown into the storm drains.

Since we are all part of the stormwater pollution problem, we all have the opportunity to be part of the solution to stormwater pollution. Clean water begins with each of us!