

What you do in and around your home or business can have a regional impact on community water resources. Protecting waterways helps ensure healthy ponds, lakes and rivers for all to enjoy no matter what your activity is - fishing, hiking, or simply enjoying the beauty of the great outdoors.



**Things You Can Do:**

- Landscaping - planting trees and vegetation helps filter pollutants and slow the velocity of runoff.
- Don't Litter - protect waterways.
- Sprinklers - try to keep the water on your lawn and off of the streets.
- Fertilizers - use organic when you can or compost from your home. Use only the amount recommended.
- Dumpsters - keep the lid closed and a plug in the bottom at all times.
- Car Wash - use the commercial bays or services that have proper drainage. At home use water only, park on lawn & use environmentally safe detergents.

**What is Stormwater**

Stormwater is rain that falls on roofs, lawns or paved areas, like driveways & roads, and is carried away by a system of stormwater pipes or culverts and ditches. As it flows over the land surface, stormwater picks up or is contaminated by debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. This untreated water is discharged into water bodies we use for swimming, sport, fishing and eventually drinking.



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**Stormwater Pollution Prevention**

You Can make a Difference!

# Ways You Can Help Prevent Stormwater Pollution

## Lawn & Garden Maintenance

Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, especially near storm drains, ditches, streams and other waterways.

Select native plants and grasses that are drought resistant.

Recycle or compost yard waste.

Cover or enclose piles of dirt and mulch with tarp and silt fencing to prevent them from washing into the waterways.

Sweep up yard waste and dispose of properly. Don't leave it in ditch.

Plant grass and vegetation where soil is exposed to prevent erosion and runoff.

## Trash

Place cigarette butts and other litter in garbage bins.

Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris.

Remove large objects from ditches that can obstruct culverts & drains.

## Hazardous Waste

Never dispose of hazardous waste into stormwater drains, ditches, bodies of water or other areas that will allow it to enter the waterways.



Store hazardous materials in proper containers in safe, covered areas to prevent stormwater from coming into contact with it.

Clean up spilled hazardous materials such as solvents & petroleum products immediately with an approved absorbent. Remove contaminated soil and absorbent materials and dispose of properly.

## Pet Waste Management

When walking your pet, pick up waste and dispose of it properly.

## Septic System Care

Have it inspected by a professional every three to five years and have it pumped.

Do not drive or park on leach lines. Keep hazardous materials out of system.

## Vehicle Maintenance

Recycle used oil and other automotive fluids at participating service stations.

Avoid leaks with proper repairs.

## General Overview

Use best management practices. Do those common sense things that prevent stormwater from carrying silt, pollution & obstructions into the waterways and drainage systems. This helps prevent flooding, harm to animal life and the environment.