



What is stormwater?

Stormwater is the runoff from storm events or spring melt. Stormwater runoff needs to be treated because it carries litter, oil, gasoline, fertilizers, pesticides, pet wastes, sediments, and anything else that can float, dissolve, or be swept along by the moving water. Left untreated, polluted stormwater can reach nearby waterways where it can harm and even kill aquatic life. It can also pollute groundwater so always sweep up litter and debris from walkways and sidewalks, driveways, patios and especially around storm drains.



As springtime approaches, here are some other items you can do at home:



Auto Care: Oils, grease, and cleaning fluids can kill aquatic life.

- Wash cars on lawn or gravel surface with an environmentally friendly cleaner, or use a commercial car wash that treats or recycles its wastewater.
- Use drip pans to collect auto fluids and fix leaks promptly.
- Clean up spills with dry absorbent materials such as kitty litter.
- Dispose of oil and grease properly.



Pet Waste: Is a major source of bacteria that can result in the spread of disease.

- Don't leave pet waste on the ground. Scoop it, bag it, and throw it in the trash.



Yard Care: Fertilizer promotes algae growth that can kill fish and wildlife, and contaminate groundwater.

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly, or just use compost instead.
- Keep chemicals off paved surfaces. Sweep up spills.
- Mow at proper height to reduce need for fertilizing.
- Improve your soil and conserve water by using compost and mulch.

Landscaping: Help the rain soak into the ground

- Direct roof and driveway runoff to a lawn or area with plantings.



Remember to keep everything out of stormwater systems except the rainwater they are designed to collect.