

Swimming Pool and Spa:

- Drain your swimming pool or spa only when a test kit does not detect chlorine levels.
- Whenever possible, drain your pool or spa into the **sanitary** sewer.
- Properly store pool and spa chemicals to **prevent** leaks and spills, preferably in a covered area to avoid exposure to storm water.

Septic System Use and Maintenance

- Have your Septic system **inspected** by a professional annually and have the septic tank **pumped** as necessary (usually every 3-5 years).
- Care for the septic system drain field by not driving or parking vehicles on it. Plant only grass over and near the drain field to avoid damage from roots.
- Flush responsibly. Flushing household chemicals like paint, pesticides, oil and antifreeze can **destroy** the biological treatment taking place in the system. Other items, such as diapers, paper towels, and cat litter can **clog** the septic system and damage its components.



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Remember:
Only Rain
Down The Drain!



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Make Your Home

The
SOLUTION
TO STORMWATER
POLLUTION



A Homeowners
Guide to
Healthy Habits
for Clean Water



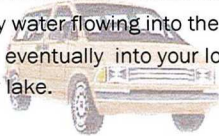
Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water:

As Storm Water flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, it picks up debris, chemicals, dirt and other pollutants. Storm water can flow into a storm sewer system or directly into a stream, wetland or lake. Anything that enters a storm sewer is discharged untreated into the water bodies we use for fishing, swimming and drinking. Polluted storm water runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

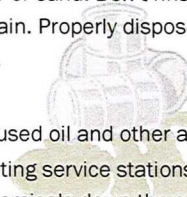
By practicing healthy household habits, homeowners can keep pollutants like pesticides, pet wastes, grass clippings and automotive fluids off the ground and out of storm water. Adopt these habits and help protect our lakes, streams and wetlands. Share this information with your neighbors!

Vehicle and Garage:

- Use a commercial car wash or wash your car on a lawn or other unpaved surface to minimize the amount of dirt and soapy water flowing into the storm drain and eventually into your local stream or lake.
- Check your car, boat, motorcycle, and other equipment for leaks and spills.



- Make repairs as soon as possible. Clean up spilled fluids with an absorbent material like kitty litter or sand. **Don't** rinse the spills into a storm drain. Properly dispose of the absorbent material.
- Recycle used oil and other automotive fluid at participating service stations. **Don't** dump these chemicals down the storm drain or dispose of them in your trash.



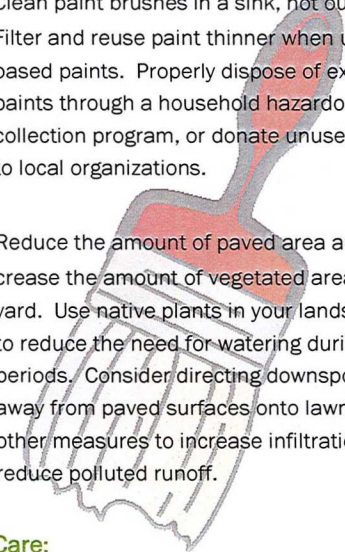
Lawn and Garden:

- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly. When use is necessary, use these chemicals in the recommended amounts. Avoid application if the forecast calls for rain, otherwise, chemicals will be washed down the drain and into your local streams.
- Select native plants and grasses that are drought and pest resistant. Native plants require less water, fertilizer, and pesticides.
- Sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing down areas. Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.
- Don't over water your lawn. Water during the cool times of the day. Don't let water run off into the storm drains.
- Cover piles of dirt and mulch being used in landscaping projects to prevent these pollutants from blowing or washing off your yard and into local water bodies. Vegetate bare spots in your yard to prevent soil erosion.

Home Repair and Improvements:

- Before beginning an outdoor project, locate the nearest storm drains and protect them from debris and other material.

- Sweep up and properly dispose of construction debris such as concrete and mortar.
- Use hazardous substances like paints, solvents, and cleaners in the smallest amounts possible, and follow the directions on the label. Clean up spills immediately, and dispose of waste safely. Store substances properly to avoid leaks and spills.
- Purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled, and recyclable products whenever possible.
- Clean paint brushes in a sink, not outdoors. Filter and reuse paint thinner when using oil-based paints. Properly dispose of excess paints through a household hazardous waste collection program, or donate unused paint to local organizations.
- Reduce the amount of paved area and increase the amount of vegetated area in your yard. Use native plants in your landscaping to reduce the need for watering during dry periods. Consider directing downspouts away from paved surfaces onto lawns and other measures to increase infiltration and reduce polluted runoff.



Pet Care:

- When walking your pet, remember to pick up the waste and dispose of it properly. Flushing pet waste is the best disposal method. Leaving pet waste on the ground increases public health risks by allowing harmful bacteria and nutrients to wash into the storm drain and eventually into local water bodies.