

# Stormwater Pollution

## What is Stormwater Pollution?

Storm drains lead directly to our waterways. Each time it rains, trash and pollutants on our streets are washed into the storm drains and are carried into our local streams, creeks, rivers and lakes. Stormwater pollution can significantly degrade our fish and wildlife habitat, our drinking water, and recreational opportunities.



## Common Types of Pollution

- Sediment
- Litter
- Oil and Grease
- Fertilizers
- Pesticides and Herbicides
- Pet Waste
- Yard Waste (Grass Clippings, Leaves)
- Hazardous Household Waste (Like Paint, Soaps, Cleaners)

### Effects of Stormwater Pollution

- Stormwater runoff transports pollutants & garbage into rivers & seas.
- Sediment is the #1 polluter of creeks and streams. It causes the water temperature to rise, harming aquatic animals & plants.
- Fertilizers and other yard debris add nitrates to the water that can cause algae blooms.
- Just one quart of oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of water.

- Make sure the oil in your car is maintained to keep it from leaking and going into storm drains.
- Keep litter, pet, and yard waste like leaves and grass clippings out of storm drains.
- Join a litter sweep or stream clean up.
- Add storm drain markers to storm drains to prevent illegal dumping.
- Clear storm drains near your house of yard debris and litter.

### Ways to Prevent Stormwater Pollution