

Stormwater is defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as:

Rainwater and melted snow that runs off streets, lawns, farms, and construction and industrial sites.

Stormwater flows over impervious surfaces (those that do not allow water to pass through), carrying pollution we leave behind to our lakes, rivers, creeks, streams, and ponds.



Along with the other common pollutants described here, our streams can be polluted through:

- ❖ **Illicit Discharges**
 - Any discharge to the storm sewer system that is not composed entirely stormwater
- ❖ **Illicit Connections**
 - Any conveyance or connection to the storm sewer system without a permit
- ❖ **Illegal Dumping**
 - The act of intentionally dumping waste into the storm sewer system



TO REPORT POLLUTION,

PLEASE CALL OUR

24 HOUR

CUSTOMER CARE CENTER

704-920-5555

City of Concord
Stormwater Services Department
704-920-5360
www.concordnc.gov

Brown Operations Center
635 Alfred Brown Jr Court SW
Concord, NC 28025

Stormwater Pollution



Did you know...

Our storm drains lead directly into waters we use for swimming, fishing and drinking?

Learn how you can help keep our waterways clean!

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Sediment

Sediment is the #1 water pollutant in the country!

Caused by erosion and construction activities which remove the plants that keep soil in place.

Effects:

- Clouds water, blocking sunlight needed by plants & animals.
- Increases water temperature
- Impairs feeding, vision, and breathing capabilities of animals.
- Falls to the bottom, upsetting the fragile habitat and fish spawning area and reducing channel flow capacity.



Oil & Grease

Generated from kitchens, machinery and vehicles & carried by stormwater when disposed of improperly.

Effects:

- Block sunlight and decreases oxygen needed by underwater plants & animals
- Damage bottom habitat by clinging to dirt particles and settling on the bottom.
- Can reduce storm drainage system capacity.

Yard Waste

Enters surface waters when leaves and grass clippings make their way onto paved surfaces.

Effects:

- Carries applied fertilizers, herbicides, and pesticides which reduce water quality.
- Like other debris, blocks storm drains, grates, or otherwise clogs the storm drainage system leading to reduced capacity, standing water, and flooding.



Ways You Can Help...

- ❖ Clean up after your pet.
- ❖ Properly dispose of cooking oils, fats & grease. They should NOT enter the sanitary OR storm sewer systems!
- ❖ Wash vehicles & machinery over the lawn or at a commercial carwashes, NOT over paved surfaces.
- ❖ Use only *enough* fertilizer and leave grass clippings to decompose naturally on the lawn. This keeps storm drains clear & will recycle fertilizer, keeping you from having to re-apply so often.



- ❖ Sweep excess fertilizer from paved surfaces. Washing with water increases the chances of getting it in the storm drain.
- ❖ Recycle or properly dispose of chemicals and automobile fluids!
- ❖ Compost! Turn yard waste and kitchen scraps into a beneficial soil amendment.
- ❖ Give your lawn or garden just enough water and/or install a rain barrel to create less runoff and conserve water.
- ❖ Make sure your dishwasher, washing machine, sinks, and showers are piped to the sanitary sewer system, NOT the storm sewer system!
- ❖ Perform a soil test at your home to determine how much and which type of fertilizer is best for your lawn.

Pesticides, Herbicides, & Fertilizers

Plants can only use so much! Leftovers are carried away by stormwater, and often end up in bodies of water, increasing levels of nitrates and phosphates.

Effects:

- Upset natural nutrient balances.
- Increase algae growth in surface waters
- Decrease oxygen levels in water, often killing aquatic plants and animals.

Machine/Vehicle Fluids & Other Chemicals

Careless use and disposal of chemicals is a danger to all living things. Product of household appliance leaks, improper plumbing, washing cars over paved areas, and improper use and disposal.

Effects:

- Kill and/or disrupt bodily and reproductive functions of plants and animals
- Coat gills and suffocate fish & other aquatic animals.



Pet Waste

Contains dangerous bacteria and high levels of nitrates and phosphates.

Effects:

- Increases algae growth and decreases oxygen levels in aquatic habitats, harming plants and animals
- Increases bacteria (E. coli) levels in water, making fishing and swimming dangerous.

