

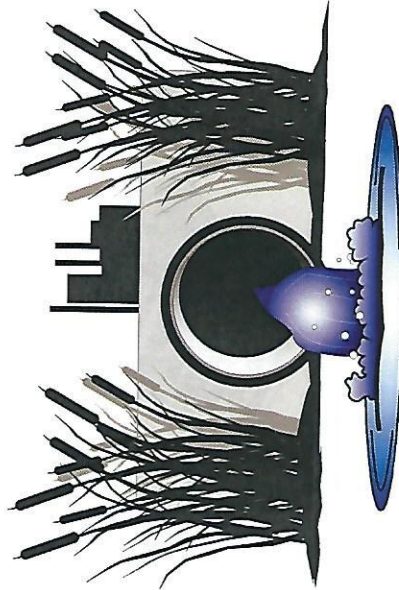
What is Storm Water Runoff?

In open fields, forests and wetlands, most rain is absorbed by the soil or taken up by plants and trees. In developed areas, rain or snow that falls on impermeable roofs, parking lots, streets and lawns is not absorbed. This precipitation (called storm water or storm water runoff) enters local water bodies through storm sewer systems.

What is Storm Water Pollution?

According to U.S. EPA's National Water Quality Inventory, polluted storm water runoff is a leading cause of impairment to U.S. water bodies that do not meet water quality standards — nearly 40 percent of those surveyed. This discharge can destroy fish, wildlife and aquatic life habitats; lessen aesthetic value; and threaten public health with contaminated food, drinking water supplies and recreational waterways.

Unlike pollution from sewage treatment plants, storm water pollution comes from many different sources. Storm water runoff can dissolve, pick up and transport many types of household products that cause this pollution. Automotive waste, lawn chemicals, paints and eroded soil are all pollutants. Many types of litter can create storm water pollution as well.



Storm Water Pollution Prevention Tips — What Can You Do?

General Information:

- Never allow any chemicals, yard wastes or any other materials to be washed down or put into storm drains. These drains may bypass the wastewater treatment plant and go directly to lakes or rivers.



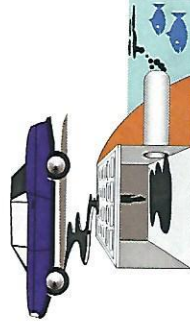
- If you must buy an item that is potentially hazardous, be sure to buy only as much as you need, and follow the instructions on the label for proper use, storage and disposal. Save unused materials for a local household hazardous waste collection event. For more information, contact your local solid waste management district. For district contact information, visit Ohio EPA's Division of Materials and Waste Management at www.epa.ohio.gov/dsiwm/pages/recyclepro.aspx or call (614) 644-2621.



- Use a garbage can for trash and recycle reusable materials. Improperly discarded trash may be carried by runoff into the storm sewer.
- Never allow roof gutters to drain directly to the street or storm sewer. Allow drainage from the roof to flow over your lawn instead.

Auto maintenance:

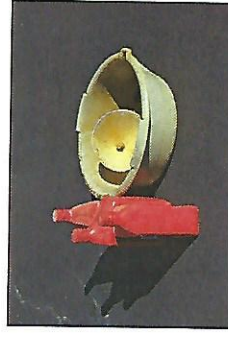
- Automobile fluids from leaks or maintenance changes are another source of water pollution. Each year Americans dump enough used oil in landfills to equal



approximately 13 spills the size of the Exxon Valdez spill! Even more oil is disposed of illegally. Much of this oil eventually finds its way into our water. Never put used oil or other chemicals down storm drains or in drainage ditches. One quart of oil can contaminate up to two million gallons of drinking water!

- Clean up spilled brake fluid, oil, grease and antifreeze with kitty litter or other absorbent material. Do not hose them into the street where they can eventually reach local streams and lakes.

- If you change your own oil or antifreeze, be sure to carefully collect all of the used oil or antifreeze in a proper container with a tight-fitting cap, and deliver it to a service or recycling center with the oil filter. Contact your local solid waste management district, call the Ohio Environment Hotline at (800)-CLEANUP or visit www.earth911.com to find the nearest collection center for your used automotive fluids.



- Wash your car only when necessary; use a bucket to save water. Wash your car on a grassy area so the ground can filter the water. Or, go to a commercial car wash that uses water efficiently and disposes of runoff properly.