



Stormwater Pollution

What You Can Do About It!
(And Why You Should Care)



Clean Water Act and NPDES

- To meet federal Clean Water Act (1972) requirements, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) was established by the USEPA.
- NPDES regulates stormwater pollutants in order to protect our natural water resources.



What is Stormwater Pollution?

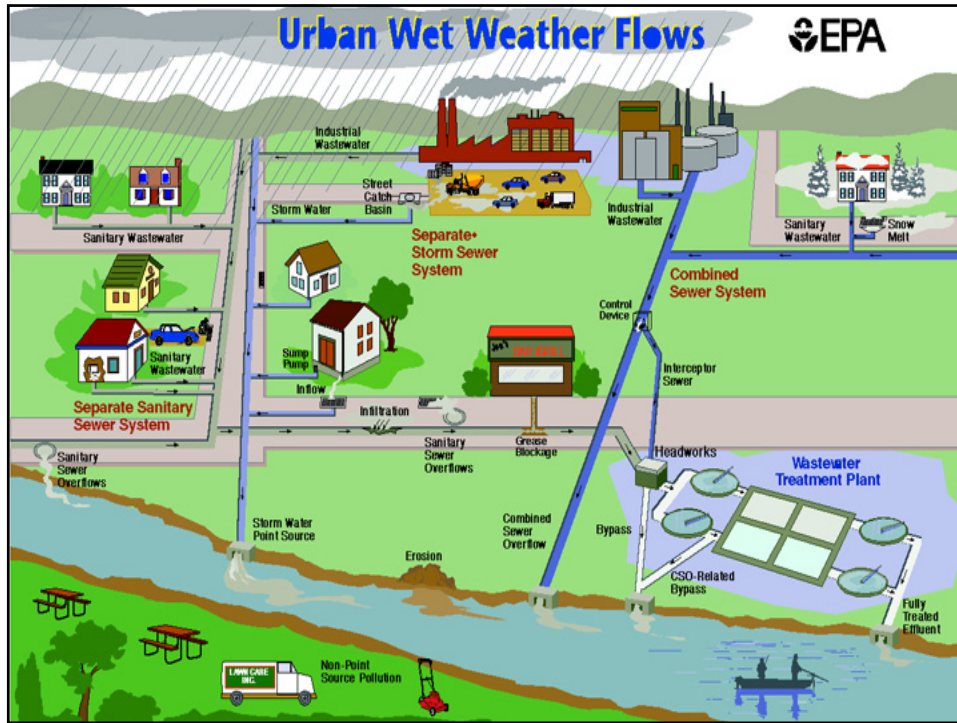
- Stormwater flows over driveways, lawns and sidewalks, picking up dirt, debris, chemicals and other pollutants.



Where Does Stormwater Go?

- Stormwater flows unfiltered into a storm sewer system or directly to a lake, stream, river or any other waterbody.





Why is it a Problem?

Polluted Runoff is the Source of Problems in:

- 34,871 miles or 13% of all Impaired Rivers and Streams
- 1,369,327 acres or 18% of all Impaired Lakes
- 5,045 square miles or 32% of all Impaired Estuaries

* Note: The National Water Quality Inventory (305(b) Report) describes the quality of assessed waters. Many of the nation's rivers, lakes and estuaries remain unassessed. The percentages above are based on assessed waters only.

Why Should You Care?

- Anything that enters a storm sewer system is discharged...unfiltered & untreated into our streams, lakes and rivers.



<http://www.epa.gov/region6/gwq/gif/kids3.jpg>

Why Should You Care?

- Polluted runoff is the nation's greatest threat to clean water.

Common Pollutants in Stormwater

- Sediment
- Nutrients
- Oxygen-demanding substances
- Pathogens
- Trash
- Road Salts
- Oil and Grease
- Heavy Metals
- Heat
- PAHs (Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons)
(Product of automobiles)



Did You Know?



- It is **ILLEGAL** to discharge any of the following into a storm drain:
 - Yard waste (grass & leaves)
 - Household hazardous waste (including paint, oil, batteries or other toxic materials)
 - Unclean pool/spa water
 - Litter
 - Pesticides & fertilizers
 - Pet waste
 - Car wash soaps

You Can Make a Difference!

- Remember - everything that goes down a storm drain goes directly to our local water resources.



You Can Make a Difference!

- By adopting a few healthy household habits you can help protect our community's water resources.

Healthy Household Habits for Clean Water

- Take your car to a car wash where the dirty soaps flow to the sanitary system.



<http://www.superspray.co.uk/Porsche%20wash%20%20%20%20.JPG>



<http://www.carwashsource.com/images/auto-car-wash/auto-car-wash-detergent-jet.jpg>

SWEEP UP Yard Waste

- Make sure you sweep up yard debris, rather than hosing it down the drain
- Compost or recycle yard waste when possible.



<http://www.myhamilton.ca/NR/rdonlyres/EBDBF9B2-BFF4-4E59-89BC-7AF8DD0A6C51/0/LeafandYardWaste.jpg>

Limit Use of Fertilizers & Pesticides

- Use fertilizers and pesticides sparingly
- Use chemicals in recommended amounts
- Limit use in areas adjacent to streams or rivers.
- Avoid application prior to rainfall.



You Can Make a Difference!

- Dispose of pet waste properly.



http://images.google.com/imgres?imgurl=http://www.puppygal.com/pics/champ/jcb030604_3.jpg

You Can Make a Difference!

- Have your septic system inspected every 3 years.
- Never flush household chemicals.



Failed
Septic
System

http://www.sharedwaters.net/images/failing_septic_system_resized.jpg

You Can Make a Difference!

- Drain your swimming pool only when dechlorinated.



<http://picasaweb.google.com/mauryhat/SydneyHomeAndFamilyAustralia/photo#5134044857916700498>

You Can Make a Difference!

- For information on household hazardous waste disposal- Call SWACO for collection locations.



You Can Make a Difference!

- If possible, purchase and use nontoxic, biodegradable, recycled and recyclable products.



http://www.sunwindpowerinc.com/files/files/recycle_symbol.jpg

You Can Make a Difference!

- Share these healthy household habits for clean water with your neighbors!



Help Reduce Stormwater Pollution in Our Community

- Now that you know that our stormwater flows directly to our streams and rivers AND that it is illegal to dump or discharge any of these materials, think twice before you do so.

Help Reduce Stormwater Pollution in Our Community

- It takes a collective effort to ensure that our local water resources are protected. Help make a difference in our community!



<http://www.sacro.org.uk/images/hands.gif>

Contact Information

When it rains, it pours.

Questions regarding stormwater pollution prevention and flooding concerns?

Contact Diane Harris at (740) 927-2168

