



***Our Drains are just for  
Rain, keep our waterways  
CLEAN & Healthy***

When it rains, all water that is not absorbed into the ground or evaporated flows into our waterways; this flow is called runoff. Our drains and gutters carry rainwater from our streets straight into rivers, streams ponds, lakes, harbors and oceans. Stormwater runoff can carry pollution from around our homes and streets into the waterways where we enjoy water activities, and where animals and plants live. If we stop pollution from entering the drains and gutters in the first place, we can keep our waterways clean, safe and healthy and provide a better environment for ourselves as well as, animals and plants for years to come!



**Public Works**

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***STORMWATER  
POLLUTION  
PREVENTION***



## ***Protect our local waterways We can make a difference***



### **Lawn and Garden**

Natural things like leaves, garden clippings and soil can harm waterways. When leaves fall and decay, they can wash into stormwater systems and become concentrated. This debris can cause flooding and also uses up oxygen, killing fish, plants and other animals that live in our waterways. Soil is also a problem. If not contained it can make the waterways cloudy and cause heavy silt built up.

### **What We Can Do to Make a Difference**

- Rake up grass clippings. Then mulch or compost them.
- Sweep up the gutters and driveways instead of hosing them down.
- Use leaves in compost or on the garden as mulch.
- Use pesticides and fertilizers sparingly.
- Plant grass where soil is exposed.

### **Pet Care**

When walking your pet, remember to pick up their waste. If waste is left unattended it can wash into the waterways and cause high levels of bacteria.

### **What We Can Do to Make a Difference**

Pick up pet waste with a plastic bag and discard in a trash bin.

### **Vehicle and Garage**

Washing your motor vehicles in the street or in your driveway, allows detergents, mud, oil and grease to wash directly into the stormwater system. Many car wash products contain phosphates, which over fertilize waterways and can cause a buildup of toxic algae which is harmful to wildlife.



### **What We Can Do to Make a Difference**

- Wash your vehicle in a commercial car wash or on grass.
- Recycle used oil at an approved recycling facility.
- Check all motor vehicles, boats and machinery for leaks. Repair all leaks as soon as possible.

### **Household Hazardous Waste**

Household hazardous wastes include cleaners, solvents, paints and pesticides, which can enter waterways through stormwater runoff, over-watering and wash water from cleaning equipment and construction areas. These products are toxic to pets, wildlife, marine life, and local plant life.

### **Tire Disposal**

Placing tires along the road side or in ditches and vacant lots will cause harm to the environment. Tires, which contain heavy metals and other pollutants, pose a risk for the leaking of toxins into groundwater and storm water when placed in wet soils.

### **What We Can Do to Make a Difference**

- Take your vehicle for tire maintenance or repair to a licensed Auto Repair Shop or Tire Shop.
- Inform people how to drop off tires to the proper authorities.
- Turn in used tires to proper recycling centers.

