



## **Stormwater Pollution Prevention -- It's Everyone's Job!**

### **What is Stormwater Pollution?**

Stormwater pollution refers to many types of harmful materials that are carried by water (rain water or snow melt) through the storm drainage system to lakes, streams, and rivers, such as the Cache La Poudre and South Platte Rivers. **Stormwater is not treated in any way prior to entering local surface waters.**

While water we use inside our homes and businesses drain to a wastewater treatment plant, stormwater and anything else dumped or spilled outside flows into the storm drainage system and directly to our waterways. Stormwater pollution has many sources. One of the most common is illegal dumping or spilling of wastes directly into storm drains, like pouring used motor oil or paint directly into a storm drain. Pollutants also enter storm drains when it rains or snows: rain runs off roofs, streets, parking lots, and other paved surfaces and flows directly into the nearest, downstream storm drain picking up pollutants along the way. From the storm drain, water flows directly to the nearest waterway – carrying any garbage, dirt, toxins, etc. it encounters along the way.

### **What Can I Do to Prevent Stormwater Pollution in my community?**

Around the house:

- Dispose of wastes properly. Always reach out if there are any questions!
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products

Outdoors:

- Avoid over fertilizing your yard; always apply based on manufacturer's recommendations
- Compost yard wastes & don't push yard wastes into the street where they could get into downstream stormwater infrastructure
- Always clean up after your pet!

While Working on Vehicles:

- Wash your vehicle on the lawn and don't use too much soap
- Clean up spills immediately with kitty litter, sawdust, or wood chips then sweep up and put into the trash; never wash spills down the drain
- Never dump oil, gas, fuels, antifreeze, etc. down a drain or onto the ground

Around the Neighborhood:

- Pick up litter and report spills immediately!
- Never dump waste into stormwater infrastructure

**It is up to everyone to be a responsible steward of our environment and prevent stormwater pollution within the City of Greeley. To learn more, visit the city's Stormwater Division's website at**

**<https://greeleygov.com/services/pw/stormwater/about>**