

WHAT IS STORMWATER POLLUTION?

Stormwater pollution refers to many types of harmful materials that are carried by water (rain water or wash water or snow melt) through the storm drain system to creeks, open ditches, Sheep Draw, Cache La Poudre and South Platte Rivers.

Stormwater is not treated in any way.

While water we use in our homes and businesses drain to a treatment plant, stormwater and anything else dumped or spilled outside flows into the storm drain 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 nearest storm drain picking up pollutants along the way. Rain, as well as waters from hoses and sprinklers, carries detergent from car washings as well as pesticides, and fertilizers to the storm drain. From the storm drain, water flows (directly) to the nearest waterway – garbage, dirt, toxins and all.

WHAT CAN I DO TO PREVENT POLLUTION?

Around the House:

- Use environmentally friendly cleaners
- Dispose of hazardous materials properly, not in the trash.



Everyday household items, such as cleaners, solvents, thinners, paints, can contaminate surface and ground water if not used, stored and disposed of properly. This can harm fish and wildlife as

well as endanger human health. The good news is that more than 60% of Household Hazardous waste can be recycled. Weld County Household Hazardous Waste Program is a no-cost program for Weld County residents. For information on this program call 304-6415, ext 2233.



Overusing lawn and garden products produces a significant amount of polluted runoff. The nitrogen and phosphorous in these products affect water quality and promote algae growth, which depletes lakes, streams and Cache La Poudre and South Platte rivers of the oxygen needed so fish and wildlife can thrive.

Your Yard & Garden:

- Avoid over fertilizing your yard, use less than manufacturer's recommended applications. (Do Not apply chemicals if rain is likely as most will be washed away)
- Compost yard wastes
- Always clean up after your pet
- **DO NOT THROW YARD WASTE IN NEIGHBORHOOD DETENTION PONDS** (Yard waste can be grass clippings, rocks, dirt, pet wastes, etc)

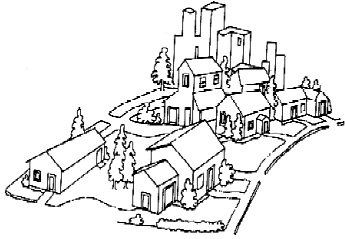
WORKING ON YOUR CAR:



- Wash your car on the lawn, where suds can absorb into the soil (better to use commercial car washes whenever possible)
- Recycle used oil, tires, batteries and anti-freeze
- Clean up spills with kitty litter, sawdust or wood chips then sweep up and put into trash. (Do not rinse with water.)
- NEVER dump motor oil, petroleum products, antifreeze, etc. down a storm drain or on the ground

Even though people should know better, every year an estimated 180 million gallons of used oil gets into America's waters – 16 times the amount spilled by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska.

Keep your vehicle well maintained. Repair engine, coolant, transmission and brake systems immediately. Leaks from these systems form toxic puddles that will eventually be washed into lakes and creeks and open trenches and Cache La Poudre and South Platte Rivers.



AROUND YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD:

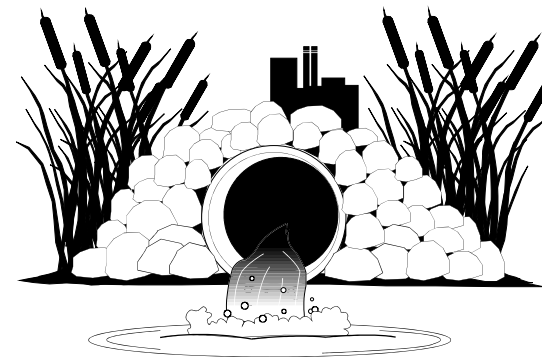
- Pick up litter and remind others not to litter in your neighborhood.
- **NEVER** dump any waste into stormwater drains, detention ponds, or natural drainage ways like open channels or ditches.
- **It is illegal to dump chemicals, solid materials or other contaminants into storm drains. If you notice such activities, immediately call 336-4074.**

It's Up to You. Together, you and your neighbors can make a difference to keep gutters, storm drains and waterways clean. To learn more, contact Stormwater Management Division at 336-4074.

COMMON CONTAMINANTS FOUND IN POLLUTED RUNOFF:	
• Heavy Metals	Metals and toxic contaminants from vehicle exhaust, tire compounds, motor oil, and weathered paint
• Oil and Greases	Fuels and lubricants enter storm drains from leaks and spills of automobile engines, transmissions, radiators onto the streets and parking lots and from improper dumping of oil into storm drains.
• Pesticides, Herbicides and Fertilizers	Chemicals that are over-applied during yard care enter storm drains from watering landscaped areas.
• Solvents & Household Chemicals	Paint thinners, oil and water based paints, degreasers, detergents, bleach, drain cleaners, and other household products enter local waters if dumped into storm drains or onto streets.
• Bacteria and Plant Nutrients	Bacteria from sewage, animal waste, litter, decomposing vegetation, and septic leaks cause serious health problems.

STORMWATER POLLUTION PREVENTION

It's Everyone's Job



Only Rain Down the Drain

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