

Stormwater Pollution Prevention

The most important thing you can do to prevent the pollution of our lakes and rivers is to get involved. There are many small things that can be done to prevent stormwater pollution. Household chemicals we use in our homes or cars, such as paint, pesticides, fertilizer and cleaners can end up in the stormwater relatively easily. This pollution contaminates the stormwater and then deteriorates the quality of our local waters. It is easy to prevent this pollution by doing a few simple things.



Home Improvement

Painting

- Use water-based (latex) paints whenever possible, they are less toxic than oil based paints and easier to clean up.
- Never clean brushes or paint containers in the street, gutter or near a storm drain. Clean water-based paints in the sink and oil-based paints with thinner. The thinner can be reused by letting it sit until the paint settles to the bottom, then the clear top can be poured off and reused.
- Dispose of dried paint particles in the trash.
- Paint stripping residue, chips and dust from marine paints and paints containing lead or tributyl tin are hazardous waste. Sweep them up and dispose of them at a hazardous waste facility.
- Recycle leftover paint at a household hazardous waste facility or give it to a local charity that will use it.

Construction Projects

- Keep construction debris away from the street, gutter and storm drains.
- Schedule grading and excavating projects for dry weather.
- Cover piles of soil, sand or gravel to protect it from rain, wind and runoff.
- Do not hose cement washout or concrete dust into driveways, streets, gutters or storm drains.
- Prevent erosion by planting fast-growing annual and perennial grass.



Lawn Care and Gardening

Pesticides and Fertilizers

- Phosphorus is now banned in Greenville because of the negative effects it has on the local waters.
- Phosphorus may only be used on gardens, new lawns in their first growing season and lawns that have been soil tested and show insufficient levels.
- Use non-toxic products for your lawn and garden when possible.
- Do not over fertilize, anything extra will be washed away into the water system.
- Sweep up any fertilizer or pesticide on driveways and sidewalks and deposit back into the lawn.
- Never apply pesticide or fertilizer before a rain.
- Store fertilizers, pesticides and other toxic chemicals in a sealed waterproof container.
- Take any unwanted lawn and garden chemicals to a hazardous waste facility.

Yard Waste

- Recycle leaves, grass clippings and other yard waste instead of letting them get into the street or gutter.
- Grass clippings act as a natural fertilizer if left on the lawn. They are also made of mostly water which will sink into the lawn, saving on water.

Water Use

- By controlling the amount of water and the direction of sprinklers, you can cut down on the amount of runoff produced.
- The average lawn needs about an inch of water per week in summer, ½ inch in spring and fall which is 10-20 minutes of watering. Make sure to take rainfall into consideration.
- Watering your lawn in the early morning will reduce evaporation from the sun.
- Save on water by planting low maintenance, drought-tolerant trees and shrubs.

Pet Waste

- When it rains, dog and other animal waste left on lawns, sidewalks and in the street is washed into storm drains and flow untreated directly into our local waters. The bacteria and risk of disease threaten the health of our kids and community.