

What is stormwater pollution?

Water that flows into a storm drain goes straight to our streams.

Stormwater doesn't go through treatment to remove debris and other pollutants due to the massive volume of water that can fall during a storm event. For example, 1 inch of rainfall on 1 acre of land generates over 27,000 gallons of water. It's not really feasible to store and treat that much water in addition to our drinking water.

Therefore, anything you dump into a storm drain affects the ecosystem and water quality of our natural waterways and, in turn, our own physical health.

Dumping chemicals and waste into your storm drain also hurts your wallet. Cleaning up costs resources, time, and money, thus requiring more treatment of our drinking water and increasing infrastructure costs.



Western Piedmont
Council of Governments

Creative Regional Solutions Since 1968



stormwater@wpcog.org

If you notice a stormwater issue or would like to connect about stormwater education, please email us!

Preventing Stormwater Pollution

What you can do!



Tips to Keep Pollution Out of Storm Drains

Pesticides and Fertilizers

Read product labels and use only as directed. Store pesticides in a covered area and in sealed waterproof containers. Never apply before it rains.



Gutters, Sidewalks, and Curbs

Keep sidewalks, curbs, and gutters in your neighborhood clean by disposing of litter. Brushing built up leaves off of storm drains can help reduce the risk of flooding too.



Pool Water

Do not discharge chlorinated or salt water into storm drains. Dechlorinate the water and direct it into your yard, which works as a natural filter for waterborne pollutants, and can help keep your yard watered.



Paints and Oil

Use water-based paints whenever possible. Clean brushes in the sink, not outside. Have oil changes done at a service facility or take your used oil to a neighborhood auto parts store to be properly disposed.



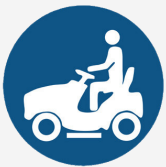
Car Washing

Wash your car in a grassed area so that the soil can filter the water. If you wash your car on the driveway, direct water runoff toward the grass and ensure that it is not going into the street or a storm drain.



For Your Home and Business

When you can, purchase non-toxic products. Store maintenance equipment and products inside or under cover. Properly dispose of hazardous waste. Check for community hazardous waste collection days or events.



Pet Waste

Take a plastic bag with you when walking pets to collect any waste. Dispose of pet waste in the trash, do not rinse it into curbs, sidewalks, or street drains.



Soil and Debris

Control erosion on your property by keeping healthy plants or mulching over exposed areas. Cover piles of dirt, sand, or gravel to prevent it from washing into storm drains.



Lawn Trimming and Leaves

Collect yard debris (such as grass clippings and leaves) and dispose of them properly or leave them on your yard as a natural fertilizer. Do not blow yard waste into the street. You can also compost yard debris to create your own organic fertilizer for garden beds.

