

Minimizing Pollution this Spring

Springtime is upon us and with warmer weather comes blooming flowers, budding trees and those famous "April Showers". While this rain is vital for the health of those trees and flowers, it can also cause an influx of **stormwater**.

What is stormwater? Rain water, snow melt or other precipitation that runs off the land and flows downhill or through storm sewer systems to reach waterways.

RAINWATER → **STORMWATER** → **STORMWATER POLLUTION**

As stormwater runs off the land it picks up pollutants from our lawns (like fertilizers, sediment, and pet waste) and roads (like petroleum products and trash) and carries these pollutants into local creeks and streams. This is called **stormwater pollution** and it is a major threat to water quality.



WHAT CAN WE DO? Here are some everyday behaviors that we can all take part in to reduce stormwater pollution:

1. Never dump anything down a storm drain
2. Prevent litter and lawn clippings from washing into storm drains
3. Make sure any storm drains near your property are clear and not blocked by leaves, litter, etc.
4. Check vehicles for leaks and have any fixed
5. Wash your car at a car wash; wash other things inside at a sink
6. Cut household chemical use and dispose of all products properly
7. Use fertilizers sparingly and never before rain
8. Make sure your septic system is working properly
9. Pick up after your pets



Photo Credit: EPA